The Journal

OF THE

Jamaica Agricultural Society.

The more people do the more they can do; he who does nothing renders himself incapable of doing anything; while we are executing one work we are preparing ourselves for undertaking another.

VOL. XVII. OCTOBER, 1913. No. 10.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT.

The usual monthly meeting of the Board of Management of the Jamaica Agricultural Society was held at the office of the Society, 11 North Parade, Kingston, on Thursday the 18th September, 1913 at 11.40 a.m. Present His Excellency Sir William Henry Manning, K.C.M.G., C.B. presiding; Bishop Collins; the Hons. Geo. McGrath, R. P. Simmonds and S. S. Stedman; Wm. Harris, the Acting Director of Agriculture; Mr. Conrad Watson and the Secretary John Barclay.

The Secretary submitted apologies for absence from Sir John Pringle who was abroad, Hon. J. R. Williams, who had gone to the country, Messrs. A. W. Douet, A. C. L. Martin and E. W. Muirhead.

The Minutes of the previous meeting having been published were taken as read and confirmed with the alteration of the name of the parish on page 7—"Mt. Felix Branch (St. Thomas)" instead of (Portland).

Notice of Motion :—

Mr. Conrad Watson gave notice that he would move at the next meeting "That seed cotton be added to Schedule (a) of the Prædial Larceny Law (Law 4 of 1909)."

The following matters arising out of the Minutes were considered :—

(a) Cotton :

The Secretary submitted a report of the experiments being carried on in Southern Manchester and Southern St. Elizabeth, stating that rains had fallen at the end of August and the beginning of September, and all the plots had been planted with the exception of Marlie Hill which the Instructor reported he could not get ready as he could not get men to work on it.

The Secretary reported that Mr. Watson and himself had visited the district, and they were not much impressed with the likelihood of cotton ever being taken up as a crop at Marlie Hill. Many of the people of the district were partly fishermen and partly cultivators and that was not a promising combination for new crops.

Mr. Watson said he did not like the appearance of the district for cotton, and there seemed to be difficulty in getting the people to work.

After discussion the Secretary was instructed to write the local Instructor stating that on account of the difficulties and delay in getting the plot ready, it might be better to drop it.

The following letter from the C.S.O. was submitted :—

No. [illegible] 17th September, 1913.

"With reference to the letter from this office Nos. 10278/10527 dated the 16th ultimo, I am directed by the Governor to transmit herewith a copy of the Rules made by His Excellency in Privy Council under Section 3, (1) of Law 35 *of* 1911, the *Diseases of Plants Law* 1911.

2. The Rules and Description will be published in the next issue of the Gazette."

(Sgd.) P. C. CORK,
Colonial Secretary.

(The Rules and description of the disease are printed on another page of the Journal.)

The Secretary said he had visited the district of Vere during the month and the local Instructor reported that he had met with very little difficulty in getting the people to destroy their old cotton plants.

(*b*) *Free Railway Carriage on Fungicides* :—

The Secretary submitted the report of the Staple and Minor Products Committee on the question of free railway carriage for Insecticides and Fungicides, stating that as lime was carried free on the railway for the treatment of banana diseases, on the certificate of the local Agricultural Instructor that it was to be used for such purpose, the use of Insecticides and Fungicides in general for the treatment of plant diseases might be encouraged by their being carried free on the railway, on the presentation of a certificate from the local Agricultural Instructor that they would be used for such purpose. The Board adopted this report, and the Secretary was instructed to send the recommendation to the Colonial Secretary.

(*c*) *Protection of Birds and Fishes*:—

The Secretary said he had been instructed at the last meeting to ask the newspapers to publish the Amended Law which had been submitted by the Government to this Society. He found however on enquiry that the Law had already been published in the newspaper the "Daily Gleaner" of date 8th March among the Bills proposed to be put forward in the Legislative Council. He found also that on June 26th, 1911 a list of birds of Jamaica drawn up in the British Museum was submitted to the Society by the Government asking for their recommendations as to what birds might be included in the list of protected birds. This list was published in the AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL for August 1911, page 357 and correspondence invited. Considerable correspondence had taken place, and the Board had recommended the exclusion of the class called Buzzards, Hawks and Eagles from protection at any time. There were also recommendations from Beekeepers that all classes of Petcharies be withdrawn, and recommendations from growers of cocoa that Woodpeckers be withdrawn from protection, but the Board was not able to recommend that these insect eating birds should not be protected. Professor Newstead when he was here

making investigation had found on opening the crops of woodpeckers that they contained cockroaches, ants and bitter wood seeds, etc., and these birds were well known as insect eaters. Woodpeckers were protected all the year round, and Petcharies only during the breeding season. The list submitted seemed to be in accordance with the recommendations of the Society. The Secretary said he had written the Colonial Secretary to this effect. Approved

(*d*) *Seeds Coconuts for West End.*

The Secretary submitted a further letter from the Secretary of the Hanover Branch and from Mr. P. O. Williams of Negril, asking for seed coconuts to be supplied them for sale. The Board however confirmed their previous decision that there would be the difficulty of controlling and regulating the supply of the nuts, so they could not arrange to send them.

(*e*) *Firearms and Catapults.*

Letters from the C.S.O. were submitted as follows :—

No. $\frac{10478}{12693}$ 21st August, 1913.

"I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 2940 dated the 30th ultimo, enquiring whether a catapult is not a firearm within the meaning of Law 58 of 1908 and in reply to inform you that the Attorney General is of opinion that the definition of firearm in the Law referred to cannot include catapult."

(Sgd.) ROBERT JOHNSTONE,
Asst. Colonial Secretary.

No. $\frac{11818}{12693}$ 8th September, 1913.

"In continuation of the letter from this office Nos. 10478/12693 dated the 21st ultimo. I am directed by the Governor to inform you that the Attorney General considers that in order to deal with catapults a special Law will be necessary, and to say that if the Jamaica Agricultural Society press for such a Law the matter will be given due consideration."

(Sgd.) P. C. CORK,
Colonial Secretary.

There was division of opinion as to whether a Law should be asked for prohibiting the use of catapults ; some members holding that this was too small a matter for special legislation and that the killing off of useful birds by small boys with catapults could be dealt with through the Education Department. The Secretary said this had already been done ; each Teacher had been circularised on the subject. The President put the matter to the vote which resulted as follows :—In favour of legislation 3, against it 4.

The Secretary was instructed to keep referring to the usefulness of insect eating birds in the JOURNAL, and to the fact that certain classes were protected, and that those who destroyed them were guilty of an offence under the Law.

(*f*) *Bovine Tuberculosis.*

The report of the Live Stock Committee on Bovine Tuberculosis was submitted recommending the adoption of the recommendations of the Director of Agriculture as follows :—

The Colonial Secretary 23rd May, 1913.

"Sir,—In accordance with the instructions of His Excellency the Governor conveyed to me in your letter of the 19th May, I have the honour to make the following observations on the resolution passed at the Trinidad Conference with regard to Bovine Tuberculosis.

"I recommend for the consideration of the Government that cattle be not permitted to land in Jamaica except under quarantine conditions unless each animal is provided with a veterinary certificate of having been recently tested with tuberculin without reaction and that all animals without such certificate

shall be admitted at the port of Kingston only and he subjected to this test by the Government Veterinarian before they are permitted to leave the quarantine. *Any animal reacting to the tuberculin test under these conditions to be destroyed* without compensation. The fee for the tuberculin test to be 20s. for a single animal and 10s. for each additional animal in any consignment.

"I recommend that all cows milked in registered dairies be tested with tuberculin and those reacting to be sold on behalf of the owner to the butcher under strict supervision of the carcase. A compensation of £3 per head to be payable to the owner by the Government for all cows so condemned and no fees to be charged for the testing.

"I believe that there are only a few tubercular cows in the dairies in Jamaica and that we could abolish this disease in our dairy cattle at a small cost.

"In England a serious percentage of the cows are affected and the new Milk Bill only condemns clinical causes of advanced tuberculosis and tubercular udders with moderate terms of inspection.

"It is very desirable to enforce the tuberculin test for all imported cattle. A man in St. Andrew recently imported some dairy heifers from U.S.A. One died of tuberculosis and the others are apparently diseased. The owner refused to have them tested. We have only had one per cent. of reactions to the tuberculin test at Hope.

"I believe it would be a sound public policy to enforce the tuberculin test for all cows in registered dairies."

(Sgd.) H. H. COUSINS,
Director of Agriculture.

The resolution referred to was moved by Dr. Angus MacDonald (of Jamaica) seconded by Mr. P. T. Saunders (Imperial Department of Agriculture) is as follows :—"That it be a recommendation from this conference that measures be taken to stamp out bovine tuberculosis and to prevent its importation in the colonies and countries represented at this conference."

The recommendation of the Committee was adopted and the Secretary instructed to advise the Colonial Secretary accordingly.

(*g*) *School Gardens Competition.*

The Secretary reported that the entries for the School Garden Competitions had been closed, and were very satisfactory.

In the prizes offered for the best plots of Sea Island Cotton in three of the big districts, there were four entries in Southern Manchester, five in Southern St. Elizabeth and seven in Southern Clarendon ; and for the best plots of guinea corn (two varieties) in the dry districts of Manchester, St. Elizabeth and Clarendon, there were six in the first, four in the second and six in the third district named. In the prizes offered for the best plot of corn suitable for seed corn ; there were 25 entries in St. Catherine, eleven in Manchester, nine in St. Elizabeth, twelve in Clarendon, three in St. Andrew, ten in St. Mary, seven in Hanover, nine in Trelawny, two in St. Thomas, seven in Westmoreland, four in St. Ann, seven in St. James, four in Portland.

These entries were considered satisfactory.

Prize Holdings Competition.

The Secretary reported that the judging of the Prize Holdings Competition in St. Catherine had to be postponed from September to December as the parish was not ready.

He submitted the following memorandum he had prepared. :—

"At various times since the Prize Holdings Competition has been in force, there have come recommendations from some districts, that there should be further classes added. The first of these recommendations was for a class of between 20 and 50 acres. It was held by the Board, however, that in most parishes men having 50 acres were not in the position of small settlers, and I think that this has been generally considered right. When I attended meetings in Portland this month, the question came up at every meeting that many were cut off from competing because they had their houses on a small holding of one acre, although they mostly had land elsewhere also. This appears to be a very common position in Portland, and representations have repeatedly come from that parish that a fourth class of holding be added of say one acre and under. I pointed out that this would probably be a most popular class, and there would be many entries involving very much time being taken to judge, and the judging at

present takes 4 months out of the year. I have also representations from the Deeside Branch in Trelawny to the same effect, Most of the people there have their holdings in the village, and they have either bought lands or rented lands further back in the mountains. The original idea of making the competition open only to those holdings with a dwelling house on them, was to encourage Agriculture around the homestead. It is a very common position in Jamaica, however, for men to have holdings in small villages or communities where they have originally bought lands, possibly before there was a village there, and as opportunity offered they bought other holdings elsewhere in the neighbourhood as lands were open for sale."

The Secretary said he would suggest that an experiment might be tried in offering prizes for a competition for holdings of one acre or less since there was such a great desire for such a competition in Eastern Portland, but this might be kept apart from the regular Prize Holdings Competition until they could see how it would work out. It would only involve a comparatively small amount of money which would be a good investment and certainly encourage the people to cultivate the land around their homesteads, put in gardens, and keep their small stock under control by putting up fences. The matter might be referred to the Instructors Committee for the scheme to be worked out and come back to the Board for final adoption.

Mr. Stedman said he had pleasure in supporting the recommendation. His Excellency would remember that the Portland Parochial Board had spent £100 in fighting an outbreak of enteric fever in Eastern Portland. Possibly the outbreak was due to insanitary conditions there—pigs being allowed to roam at large, etc. If the special prizes which it was proposed to offer would only have the effect of improving sanitation, then he for one would be glad. But he was certain that it would go further than that. The system of tenancy had been almost discontinued in that section of Portland. Large property owners had taken up their lands for the purposes of cultivation; other lots of land were held by the Crown so that the recommendation of Mr. Barclay would encourage them to take up and improve their holdings. The experiment was a good one.

The Governor asked if the effect of the competition would prevent people breeding pigs. Wherever he went about the country he saw pigs running about the roads.

The Secretary said No, but it would, they hoped, have the effect of showing them the benefit of keeping their pigs under control,

It was decided to adopt the recommendation and refer it to the Instructors Committee to prepare a scheme for submission to the Board.

(l) *Frankfield Branch re Service of Trains Chapelton Railway.*

The Secretary said as instructed he had forwarded the resolution of the Frankfield Branch *re* the passenger service of trains to the Acting Director of the Railway, who had replied that it had already been arranged to run two trains daily between Kingston and Chapelton from the 4th of September when the line to Chapelton was open for traffic.

The following further letters from the C. S. O. were submitted:

(*a*) *Wide Wheel Tires.*

No. [illegible] 21st August, 1913.

"I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1126 dated the 19th May last in regard to the rule issued by the Collector General to the Collectors of Taxes regulating the refund of part of the tax on

wheels which have wide tires, and in reply to inform you that His Excellency has approved of the Collectors accepting fifty per cent. of the tax only crediting Parochial Funds with the full rate of the tax and charging the rebate as a refund from General Revenue."

(Sgd.) P. C. CORK,
Colonial Secretary.

This was considered satisfactory.

(*b*) No. $\frac{11883}{13594}$ 9th September, 1913.

"I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 3626 dated the 23rd ultimo, on the subject of Prædial Larceny and the amendment of the Produce Protection Law."

2. "I am, in reply, to inform you that His Excellency considers that the proposed meeting between some of the most prominent buyers of agricultural produce and a Committee of the Board of Management of the Jamaica Agricultural Society should be arranged, and I am to request you to notify me when the date of the meeting is fixed so that the Attorney General can be asked to attend.

3. "I am to say that a copy of paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 6 of your letter has been sent to the Inspector General of Police, who has been asked for a report on the representations made therein.

4. "With reference to paragraphs 7 and 8 of your letter, I am to request you to furnish a summary of the replies of the Branch Agricultural Societies which contain any practical and useful recommendations with respect in the Prædial Larceny Law and the Produce Protection Law."

(Sgd.) P. C. CORK,
Colonial Secretary,

After discussion it was arranged to hold a special meeting of the whole Board, the day before the Board Meeting, viz, the 15th of October at 3 p.m. at the office of the Society, and the Secretary was instructed to communicate with prominent buyers of agricultural produce and to publish a notice in the newspapers.

(*c*) "*Authorized Persons*":—

No. $\frac{10216}{12204}$ 30tb August, 1913.

"I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 2757 dated the 21st ultimo suggesting that a simple leaflet should be prepared embodying Law 4 of 1909 "A Law in aid of the Laws relating to Prædial Larceny", and setting out the duties required of Authorized Persons under the Law.

2. I am in reply to refer you to the letters from this office Nos. 8432/10103 of the 22nd August 1910 and Nos. 6091/4728 of the 15th May 1913 in regard to the payment of Authorized Persons for attending Court as witnesses and for performing actual duties, and also to tbe letter from this Office Nos. 8589/9222 dated the 26th July 1911 forwarding a copy of a Memorandum prepared by the Attorney General setting out the powers of the Authorized Persons, and to request you to indicate what further instructions your Society considers that it would be useful to add."

(Sgd.) P. C. CORK,
Colonial Secretary.

In connection with this the Secretary presented letters giving instances of where "Authorized Persons" had done work in checking the stealing of produce without being remunerated at all, and stated that there were many cases coming before him; there seemed to be confusion with regard to the reading of the Law especially with regard to the difficulties the "Authorized Persons" met with in getting paid for work done, such as were indicated in some of the letters read.

The Governor asked how long the Law had been at work.

The Secretary said the Law had been passed in 1909 but had really not been in any active operation until two years later, and it was only lately that it had been taken up earnestly.

The Governor observed that the Law was still in its experimental

stage, and he suggested that the Secretary was the proper person to draft an explanatory pamphlet which could be submitted to the Colonial Secretary for submission to the Attorney General. This was agreed to. The Secretary was also instructed to put forward in detail any cases of difficulty he had knowledge of in connection with the carrying out of the Law, and especially in connection with the work done by "Authorized Persons" for which they were not remunerated, in order that the Attorney General might make the points clear.

Affiliations :—

The following applications for affiliation were submitted from local Agricultural Societies, Brown's Town (St. Ann), Ginger Ridge (St. Catherine) and New Road (Westmoreland). The Secretary also submitted a letter from Nicaragua signed by 9 people asking if a local Agricultural Society they had formed at Nicaragua could be affiliated to the Jamaica Agricultural Society. He had replied that the Society could not have Branch Societies outside of Jamaica and its Dependencies, but those who wished connection with the Society could join as ordinary members and they would receive a copy of the JOURNAL monthly.

The three local Societies were affiliated.

Resolutions:—

The Secretary submitted a resolution from the Guy's Hill Branch *re* Cattle Trespass Law, and from the Alexandria Branch *re* "Authorized Persons."

The first was referred to the Live Stock Committee and the Secretary was instructed to note the resolution from the Alexandria Branch when the subject of Prædial Larceny came up again.

Instructors:—

The usual monthly Reports and Itineraries of the Instructors were submitted and referred to the Instructors Committee.

The Secretary submitted report from the Instructors Committee recommending the appointment of Mr. Thomas Powell as Instructor for North and Central Manchester and St. Elizabeth in place of Mr. Palache, on probation for 6 months.

The Board confirmed this appointment.

The Secretary submitted report from the Office Committee recommending that the Assistant Secretary's period of probation which had lasted from the 1st April to the 30th of September, be extended for another 6 months at the same salary. Approved.

Statement of Account was tabled.

New Members :—

The following new members were elected :—E. C. Motta, Kingston ; Eugene Nazon, Cape Haiti, Haiti ; Miss N. A. Miller, St. Ann's Bay ; Edwin Elliot, Anotto Bay ; F. C. Billingslee, Spanish Town ; C. H. Panton, Kingston ; F. H. Connor, Mandeville ; Alex. W. Gordon, Rio Bueno.

The Meeting adjourned until Thursday, 16th October, 1913, at 11.40. a.m.

THE SWEET POTATO.

IPOMOEA BATATAS.

We have been informed on the authority of the Director of Agriculture and Mr. William Harris, the Superintendent of Public Gardens, that this is one of the most useful and wholesome root-crops grown for family use. The origin of the plant is obscure but it is thought by the best authorities that it is a native of both Hemispheres.

My object in writing this paper is not to trace out the history of its origin or to give any scientific botanical description of the plant, but to put in a plea for the better cultivation thereof and thus add to its value as a food producing crop both for man and beast.

According to both Mr. Cousins and Dr. Nicholls who wrote the book on Tropical Agriculture, the sweet potato contains more nutritious matters than the Irish Potato which is the staple food of the peasants of Ireland.

Originally only two varieties were known, the red and the white, but as the plant lends itself to hybridization by means of insects and wind without artificial aid, the varieties now in Jamaica are legion, and each variety displays some particular mark of distinction either in leaf, habit of growth, time of producing the crop, colour, flavour or quality of tuber. There are varieties ready for reaping as early as four months after planting, others take fully twelve months. Whilst some are intermediates. The leaves of some are serrated and fingered, while others are oval or round. The foliage varies in colour from bright green to rich purple, whilst purple markings on the leaves and vines varying in size, serve to enable the distinguishing of the numberless varieties. The habit of growth also differs in a remarkable degree. Some are vigorous growers, the vines running to great lengths and in a very short space of time covering a considerable area of ground, putting out roots at almost every joint and bearing tubers. Others confine themselves to a rather shrubby growth, the vines being more like stems and only bearing from the planted ends. The colours of the tubers also vary, there are whites, reds, bright yellow, pale yellow, purple centres and whole purple. The present method of planting adopted by most cultivators is to make hills and plant all the varieties together. I have seen as many as four varieties stuck in one hill. The consequences of this are that the vigorous growers overpower and keep down the less vigorous; when the early varieties are ready for reaping, the late varieties are just beginning to bear and are destroyed in the course of gathering the earlies. If these are left until the lates are ready, they begin to grow, become spongy and corky and useless for human food. Thus the cultivator gets only half a crop. Another important feature is the quality of the different varieties. Some are splendid in flavour and cooking qualities. Others are hard and watery, stringy and of poor flavour, whilst some kinds do nothing but grow and make foliage but do not bear, or so little as to be unprofitable. Yet all are planted indiscriminately without knowledge or thought of the possible result. Now could

not great improvement be effected by a little attention to the collection of knowledge and the diffusing of it through the Agricultural Instructors and School Gardens to the general cultivator?

The first step I would recommend is the planting of the different varieties in sections. The principal planting seasons are in the spring, March, April and May and in the fall. August, September, October and November, in these months there is almost certain to be rain, so if a planter were to select three varieties say an early, a mid-season, and a late, and divide whatever land he has for planting this crop into three sections planting each section with one of the selected varieties in the spring and repeat the process in the fall, he would get his crop in succession and thus have a supply of potatoes all the year round.

The best varieties I know are:—

EARLIES, from 4 to 5 months:—Blue Bud, John Christian, Saint, Sairey.

MEDIUMS, from 6 to 7 months:—Lewis Daly, Jane Dennis, Red Mingo, White Mingo, Channer, Parson Prince or Caroline Lea, No. 1 Trinidad.

LATES, from 9 to 12 months:—Yellow Covy, White Salmon, McMurray, Thompsons Favourite or Sharp, Josephs.

The best plan is to plant the earlies in hills or banks.

The mediums either in hills or banks or in beds of well forked land.

The lates which are principally the vigorous or running varieties should be planted in well ploughed or forked beds and so soon as they begin to run, nip out the ends and bury the vines every foot or so.

The next suggestion I would make is to get some one to make experiments with the numerous varieties.

1. To classify and get fixed names. It is the practice to call the potato after the person from whom it was obtained. I know of the same potato having 6 different names in different districts.

2. Ascertain accurately the time at which the crop of each variety is ripe and marketable.

3. Note the quality and description of the tuber of each variety.

4. Discard those that are worthless and unprofitable to plant, and then continue experiments in hybridization, so as to obtain if possible new varieties by crossing approved good varieties with known good qualities.

Another very important point for consideration is, that certain varieties whilst doing equally well all over the Island, there are others, good bearers in one district that will not bear profitably in another; and again it is well known that some varieties after being grown for some time in a particular district will suddenly cease to yield good crops in that district. By means of the School Gardens, trials could be made of new varieties to ascertain their suitability to that district. There is useful and important work to be done in this direction but it is difficult to get certain parishes to realize how important it is, and these suggestions in some quarters met

with sneers and contempt. I should like to ask if the matter of hybridization and careful selection had not been taken up when the potato disease threatened Ireland, and if men like Martin Sutton (founder of Sutton & Sons) had not gone to work and succeeded in obtaining disease resisting varieties, where would the Irish Potato, the staple food of the Irish people, be to-day.

There is a great complaint just now of the sweet potatoes in Southern St. Elizabeth being destroyed by worms eating up the tubers. I should recommend these lands being enclosed and pigs fed thereon. The pigs will eat out not only the potatoes but the larva of the grubs and root and loosen the soil. Then the land should be well mulched, planted in corn and beans and then potatoes again planted on the land, and it will be all the better if new varieties obtained from another district are planted.

J. T. PALACHE,

Agricultural Instructor.

(The different varieties of potato slips mentioned can now be had from Mr. Palache's Experiment Ground, Mandeville. Address:—J. T. Palache, Mandeville P. O.)

:o:

SOME GOOD BLOWN BY AN ILL WIND TO THE WEST.

(*By R. C. Somerville, Agricultural Instructor.*)

To say that the hurricane did any good to the Western parishes might be considered by some a fit qualification for the Lunatic Asylum. But the old proverb must always remain true, "Its an ill wind that blows nobody any good."

In this brief article I desire to point out how many of our energetic small proprietors have turned this calamity to good account and how others who are still wringing their hands in despair, may follow their good example.

1.—First of all there is one branch of agriculture that has been sadly neglected in the West. I refer to the growing of vegetables.

I have frequently been interviewed by dwellers in Montego Bay, Savanna-la-Mar and Lucea as to why it was that so few garden vegetables were grown in the mountains when there was always a demand in the towns for them. Cabbages, turnips, carrots, peas, and other well known vegetables all find a ready market and at a price too that makes it well worth the growers while to produce them.

After the hurricane when all the yams and cocoes were destroyed, the people saw that they must put in crops that would come in the quickest and would find an easy market, and the Secretary of the Parent Society and his staff were kept very busy attending to orders for vegetable seeds. A large quantity of these seeds were distributed free and so those who had no money but were willing to plant were provided with seeds.

The result has been that the importance of the kitchen garden has been realized and the settlers who hitherto paid little attention to it are now firm believers in the virtue of vegetables as a food supply and as a means of realizing quick money.

I have never seen more cabbages nor better in all my life than have been grown in upper Westmoreland since the storm.

2.—"*Irish*" *Potatoes owing to the very good seasons of the fall* and the spring, have done remarkably well. Many growers have planted large plots. Mr. G. A. Hylton of Beaston Spring has in 1½ acres of very healthy and vigorous growing potatoes and he is justified in expecting a large crop.

The local price for good quality potatoes is 1½d. per lb.

3.—Then the hurricane has blown good to upper Westmoreland in the shape of the Bethel Town Loan Bank, an institution which is giving men an opportunity of placing themselves on a better footing, than they were before the disaster. Holdings are being remodelled and new plots put under cultivation. I mention the names of some men worthy of note,—Edmund Graham, Edward James, W. Gordon-Hilton, and Henry McIntosh of the Lamb's River branch; Thomas Cleghorn, William Headley, Robert Leslie of Bethel Town; J. McKenzie, Samuel Philip and Charles Cooke of Darliston. Given continued fair seasons and no calamity these men are bound to climb the hill of prosperity.

The opportunity for the remodelling of entire holdings which were badly laid out will not long remain, but while it does remain every settler should seize it.

4.—This is the time to thin out your too thickly planted coffee trees. This is the time to cut out fruit trees that you only kept because you hadn't the heart to cut them down.

This is the time to look well around your entire holding for all kinds of improvement, for a year hence the trees will have grown again and the opportunity will have passed.

5.—If you have *no money* then learn the lesson I learnt from an old Journal.

There are other forms of capital more valuable than money in as much as they can earn money while they cannot be purchased with any amount of money.

(1) *Time* so misused by some of us. Ten minutes per day given to, say, coffee pruning, early in the morning before you go to work will soon give you a clean and profitable field.

(2) *Knowledge* in which you are increasing through the Journals and your branch meetings, and by experience. Put this into practice.

(3) *Health and Strength* so often abused.

(4) Fertile soil and fruitful seasons inviting your co-operation to produce abundant harvests.

These are forms of capital and are given to you to trade on. Be up and doing.

R. C. SOMERVILLE.

Bethel Town P.O.

(We are sorry this article was crushed out of the August and September Journals.)—Ed.

SISAL HEMP.—Continued.

CHAPTER 9.

YIELD, ETC.

In Yucatan the yield ranges from 50 lbs, up to 100 lbs. of dry fibre per 1,000 leaves. I made here the following 4 tests from leaves of plants in different lowland localities, grown in Jamaica from the real Yucatan Sisal of commerce, the mother plants of which I brought to this Island. 1st Test. 5 leaves varying in length from 45 to 59 inches gave a result of 8½ ozs. of dried fibre. This was extracted at Hope Gardens in the presence of Mr. W. Harris, the Superintendent of Public Gardens and Plantations. The other tests I made afterwards are as follows:—

5 Leaves, Result	....	7¼ ozs. fibre.
5 ,,	,, ...	6½ ,, ,,
2 ,,	,, ...	6 ,, ,,

Of these latter three tests, some of the leaves are short and others rather thin, and some at a disadvantage having grown under shade. I purposely took leaves in this manner so as to make thorough tests. Each plant should produce from 30 to 35 ripe leaves per annum or 32 on the average. Making the calculation on the basis *of the lowest test of 6 oz. of fibre from 5 leaves, an acre would* give not less than 1,440 lbs. per annum. Of course there is every likelihood of higher yield being obtained.

Sisal Hemp at 5 to 5½ cents per lb. in New York will give when its crop begins, a *net* profit of about £7 to £8 per acre per annum on its working expense.

The working expense is £5 to £6 per acre per annum at the maximum. I must state that I have also made a test of the leaves of the Sisal plants grown here at an altitude of 1,800 feet, 5 leaves of which yielded 5 ozs. of dried fibre. This I consider very good under the circumstances as the leaves were thin, the plants having shade around them, and not deriving full benefit from the sun which would have thickened them and produced more fibre.

Conditions as regards cost of labour, etc., are very much the same here as in Yucatan. The following are extracts from letters I have received relative to Sisal Hemp.

Messrs. Hanson & Orth, Hemp Brokers, New York, writing under date 1st April, 1910, in reply to my letter stated:—

"To-day's market price for Progreso Sisal is 5 cents per lb. net cash ex Steamer New York. There is no duty on the article. There is a demand for all the Sisal that comes to market."

Messrs. Ide & Christie, Fibre Brokers, London, in their letter 1st April, 1910, referring to my inquiries about Sisal, wrote:—

"We can sell promptly all you send. There is no import duty. all comes in free."

In each of the monthly circulars of Ide & Christie, London, from January to April, 1910, Mexican Sisal is quoted:—

"Spot quotation £29 per ton, arrival quotation £28 per ton."

The London price may with safety be put down at from £25 to £28 per ton.

I forwarded sample of Sisal Hemp grown here to Messrs. Hanson & Orth, New York, and in their letter dated 27th June, 1910, they reported :—

"Very good length; strength good. Colour good. We could readily sell it in this market."

To any bona fide planter or individual or company desiring further information with a view to going in for the Sisal Hemp industry here and requiring details of cost of cultivation, machinery; etc., up to the time of harvesting and for reaping crop, etc. I will be prepared to give same. I may mention that the tests made from the Bahama variety of Sisal grown here, yield not more than one half of what the Yucatan Sisal gives, so that it would not be so profitable for us to cultivate the Bahama fibre.

CHAPTER 10.

THE FIELDS AS GRAZING PASTURES.

The idea of putting to other use the fields of Sisal Hemp without any harm whatever to the plant is too valuable a thing to be omitted and the public not made aware of. It is a practice in Yucatan for the Hemp fields to be used as pastures for stock as soon as the plants (if it is a new plantation) have grown to a certain height and have got beyond the condition of "tenderness" when they bid defiance to the approach of any animal on account of the hard and sharp points of the leaves, and the thorns on their edges.

Nearly all the plantations there, with the exception of those being established, are used as common pastures resulting in a curtailment, to some extent of the expense for cleaning I must again state that positively no animal of any kind to my knowledge eats the plant, and on account of its defensive nature, it, after a certain time, neither gets trampled nor are the leaves broken. The fields should not be planted with guinea grass, but confined to grass of a low growth, as the former on growing high will make the leaves of the Sisal spindly and prevent the cutters from having free and easy access to the trees. The time, from planting, when the fields may be used as pastures cannot be definitely stated, as it is a matter controlled by soil and seasons.

It may however be put down, more or less, at about 1½ or 2 years after planting, at any rate it is used before the beginning of crop. Making a too early use of the field for the purpose of pasturage will most certainly destroy the plants by having them trampled and knocked over, for being young they are delicate, and any bouncing about and slackening of the roots at this period will cause a set-back, hence the necessity of waiting until they are fit and strong.

CONCLUSION.

Having reached the end of my paper on Sisal Hemp I desire to thank the Prieto Machine Co., of New York for their permission to use at any time the illustrations of their machine, and to express my indebtedness to Mr. W. Harris, Superintendent of Public Gardens and Plantations, Jamaica, who readily gave me help, and kindly placed a small machine at my disposal for the extraction of the fibre from the Sisal leaves I took to Hope Gardens for testing the yield.

As Agriculture is the most important aspect of our life as a community and everybody, I take it, is wishful of seeing an increase in our exports, I cannot help hoping that the Sisal Hemp industry which possesses such favourable agricultural conditions for us may be taken up here and in the near future become one of Jamaica's chief staples.

D. J. STODDART,

Kingston.

(There is one Sisal plantation here, established in 1907 and which has been decorticating the plants and shipping the fibre for three years back, at first of course in small quantities, but now in increasing quantities.)—Ed.

(We regret we could not reproduce the illustrations referred to).—ED.

——:o:——

DO NOT PART WITH YOUR LAND.

Periodically some parts of Jamaica cry out that drought is causing loss to crops. Yet no moderate period of dry weather should cause loss, when we consider how much rain falls at some periods of the year. What has become of the thousands of tons of rain that has fallen on the land? It has run over the surface washing thousands of tons of good top soil into the gullies, streams, sink holes, rivers and to the sea.

This washing or erosion of the soil can be checked, stopped, prevented altogether.

Why should any man owning land allow his best soil to be washed away? If anyone tried to steal even a chain of land from him, he would go to court over it. Yet chains of land, tons of soil, are washed from the surface every year and the owner views the matter with equanimity, an easy mind.

A heavy rain of 3.36 inches fell in one locality in September within three quarters of an hour. There was a small place there with good drains or trenches all along the hillsides and across the little valleys and gullies, a series of trenches across the gullies to stop the flow of water and enable the gullies to be cultivated, to the bottom for there was fine soil there, and this rain filled up every trench with soil washed from above. Very little, if any, soil passed away to the sink holes. The trenches were cleaned immediately and the soft, rich surface soil in them flung back on to the crops. Without these trenches all that soil would have been lost, washed down to the sink holes.

The cost of the trenches was a trifle compared to what the loss of that soil would have been.

Land well forked or ploughed, trenches to drain flat lands, and check wash on hillsides, together with green dressings through all crops like bananas, canes, yams, etc., or where mulch can be procured, the surface covered with grass etc., (where a surface dry mulch suits conditions as it some times does not, on some clay lands,) will prevent the great loss of soil that takes place after any heavy rain, and will prevent loss through drought. When rain falls on soft land covered with crops, its force is broken by the cover crops, it soaks into the soft soil; if rains are continuous and the soil

is full, the surplus water drains through into the trenches; there is no soil washed away. The rain stops, the fierce sun comes out and shines day by day for weeks, perhaps months, without any more rain. The land that is soft, and protected by a heavy crop of peas or beans (a green mulch) or by a dry mulch (grass, etc.) remains soft; the rain has not beaten it, the sun cannot bake it, heavy dews fall on it every night, the soil below it is full of moisture, which rises but instead of being evaporated by the heat of the sun on a bare surface, is intercepted by the roots of the cover crops or meets the thick blanket of mulch and stays there, when the roots of the crop plants eagerly utilise it. Thus the soil is kept damp through months of dry weather.

On the contrary, what happens to hard soil, kept bare except for the bananas or canes or yams or orange trees or coffee or cocoa planted in rows through it. The full force of the heavy rain falls upon it, beats down upon it, washes away the loose soil, and if clay, leaves a smooth, shiny surface, if loam leaves it covered with little holes and ruts. The hot sun comes out, shines upon it, bakes it hard as concrete, cracks it, and in a week or two of dry weather the crops begin to yellow; in a month they suffer badly; continuous dry weather through several months kills them.

The crops on land protected by cultivation, trenching and mulching (whether a green or growing mulch or a dry mulch) remain fresh. And on this land the soil gets better and better; on the hard land the soils get poorer and poorer.

It costs money to buy land; plenty of small settlers only have a few acres and want more. But the first thing is to see that the few acres are not being washed away, and that they are producing all they can, both of which can be done by the same methods. The biggest waste here is of land. See that your soil is not being washed away bit by bit. If it is, stop the loss. Keep the land you have and make it keep you too.

——:o:——

JIPPI JAPPA HAT INDUSTRY.

JAMAICA-PANAMA HATS.

The plant from which our Jamaica-Panama Hats are made is called Jippi Jappa, sometimes written Ippi Appa, but usually pronounced Yippi Yappa, The Botanical name is "Carludovica Jamaicensis," from a plant grown in South America which is called "Carludovica Palmata;" the plants however, are practically identical.

This plant is not a palm, it is more nearly related to the Aroid family, which includes our Jamaican Cocoes, Tanias, Caladiums, etc.

Correspondents are always writing us for information as to these plants and the process of curing the straw, so we give some information on the subject most of which has been published before but will bear repeating.—ED.

The Curing of the Straw.

Though the art of making the Jippi Jappa hat was introduced into Jamaica fully seventy-three years ago, the industry remained a struggling one till about a decade ago when both natives and strangers began to realize the real value of the locally manufactured

article. Since then the industry has made rapid advancement, and the demand is for the most part in excess of the supply. In Jamaica, about the year 1840, the first hat was made by a Spaniard, Ryan by name, who recognized the plant as that from which the Panama hat was made. This occured near Glengoffe in the Cassava River District of the Parish of St. Catherine bordering on the Parish of St. Andrew. This and the surrounding districts in both the parishes named are still the seat of the Jippi Jappa industry and hundreds of pounds are circulated over this comparatively limited area weekly. It is not, however, an easy way of obtaining high wages. A very fine hat valued at a guinea on the spot will take perhaps a whole month to be completed and the average day's pay of the hat-makers works out at something between 9d. and 1s. 3d. except in cases of indisposition, convalescence or on rainy days. Our able-bodied men would be better advised to cultivate the soil.

The Jippi Jappa plant is like a palm and the term "straw" applied to the material used in the manufacture of the hats is only a convenient word. Attempts have been made to cultivate the plant, but experiments prove that it thrives best in its wild surroundings. As the appearance and the durability of the hat depend so much upon the curing of the straw, this stage of the work is of great importance.

The straw is manufactured from the heart-leaf of the plant, while in its unfolded condition. When the leaf begins to open, then it is unfit for the purpose of hat making. Only the best quality heart-leaves can be utilised in making fine hats. A good heart-leaf from the joining with the leaf-stalk to the tip, should be from twenty-four inches upwards. The sides of the heart-leaf having a greenish appearance are first taken off, with the help of a thin knife. Next the veins or woody portions along the back, and the apparently hard green portions along the front remote from the woody lines are all removed. This is best done while the heart-leaf remains folded like a fan and is facilitated by splitting the leaf lengthwise in two. For hats of a medium quality the separation may be done economically so that the loose strands into which the leaf is now converted may each be further divided into two parts. For specially fine hats this process must be carried out carefully so that each strand will ultimately form a single fine straw, and this work must be done in such a manner as to insure the uniformity of the straws. The trailing over, the leaves are boiled as in ordinary cooking. This should be done early in the morning of a fair day, and the leaves hung loosely in the sunlight upon a clean cord or a long rod stretched out for the purpose. They are by this means properly dried but are left to complete the process of bleaching, hanging in the dew for one or two nights. They are taken in early in the morning when they are very pliable, which prevents breaking when being used. It is while undergoing the drying that the strands roll themselves into straws. The boiling and bleaching process give the white colour to the straw, and when properly done, the right kind of heart-leaves being selected, removes the necessity for sulphuring the hats which only produces a false appearance, neither is there then any necessity to bleach the hats as some strangers have suggested.

A. P. HANSON.

Stony Hill P.O., 15/9/13.

II.—ANOTHER DESCRIPTION.

Straw prepared from the leaves of vigorous plants growing in the shade is considered the best. Leaves from plants growing in open places, where they are fully exposed to the sun, yield a straw that is coarse in texture and assumes a reddish tint, and is, therefore, only suitable for coarse work.

Young unopened leaves are used for preparing the "straw." The leaves should be gathered when the leaf-stalks are from six inches to two feet in length. If the stalk has attained a length of more than two feet the straw obtained never becomes white but assumes a dirty yellowish tint.

Having selected the leaf, it is divided down the centre into halves leaving a portion of the stalk attached to each half. From the two sides of each half or division, three or four of the green segments are removed. Then the nerves or "bones" of the segments must be removed, and at this stage the operator has to decide whether coarse or fine straw is required. If coarse straw is desired, then only a few of the leaf segments are torn away with the nerves, but if the operator wishes to secure fine straw, a broader section is removed. This is done by again slitting one of the original divisions at each side, guaging the width of the straw required, which will be obtained from the central part after removing the outside portions.

The selected straw is now placed in a pot of water which should be boiling, and it is kept boiling for about half an hour till the stalk to which the straw is attached becomes somewhat soft. If boiled too long, the stalk will get so tender that the straw will drop off, and it cannot then be bleached and cured.

When taken out of the boiling water, the segments must all be separated down to the stalk, the straw is then hung thinly on lines in the open air where it is exposed to the sun and dew for three days and nights. Slight rain does no harm, but rather assists in the bleaching process, heavy rain, however, may spoil the straw. On the whole, it is considered safer to remove it under cover during rain, as it might get soaked, and, in the absence of the sun for any length of time, it would probably become mildewed, and consequently useless.

This bleaching and drying constitutes the curing process, but before the straw is used, it is damped to render it pliable for plaiting, just sufficient straw being moistened at a time to keep the plaiter supplied with material. To moisten it and cause it to be perfectly pliant, it requires to be dipped in water and put aside in a cool place about ten minutes before use, or it may be kept wrapped in a damp cloth.

One leaf of the Ippi Appa produces what is known as a "head" of straw, and about ten heads are required to make a hat for an adult. For an extra large hat as many as twelve heads are necessary.

The finest straw only is used for hats, and the coarse is worked up into hand-baskets and brooms.

III.

Here is another account of the preparation of the straw in Columbia.

Young shoots, very uniform in size are cut from the plant and boiled to a certain stage. Thus they become a uniform light yellow colour. When the proper boiling point has been reached they are hung up to dry and all leaves quickly separated. This is done inside the house, where there is a draught but no sunlight. When the leaves are nearly dry, they are split with a little Y shaped wooden tool so that every good leaf is exactly the same size as another. Left alone then to dry, as above, the leaves curl in at the edges and then are ready for manufacture. The "straw" is carefully wrapped in clean cloths, as the light and dry atmosphere spoils them.

In Ecuador the young leaves are cut off, about two or three inches of stem below the bottom of the leaf, whilst the green leaf is still folded up in pleats, though almost or just ready to open.

Then three or more of the outer pleats of which the leaf is composed are torn off from the outer sides (both sides) as these are at once too tough to form proper straw, and too green to whiten. In the same manner, two or three of the pleats in the centre are taken away, as they are too fragile or tender to form good straw.

Then the two edges of the remaining pleats are removed six or eight at a time, by slitting them with a needle. Or better still a bradawl, on either side from about 6 or 8 inches from the top, upwards, the centre part of the pleat is then caught hold of, and torn downwards to the stem, but never separating it from the stems When this has been done with all the pleats. The outside edges or fringes so separated, are cut off and the remaining pleats, with the stem, are wound up as in a ring, so as to fit into a pot of boiling water. They are plunged into this, and as they are cold the temperature of the water is at once reduced. They can be left in the water (but must be entirely covered by it) until this again boils, or even a little longer. They are then taken out, well shaken to get all the water possible out of them, and hung up on a string to dry. This must be done in the open air, and in the shade, never in the sun. After drying thus for say one day, they can be put in the sun to bleach more. To get them still whiter, the juice of several lemons may be mixed with the water in which they are boiled. In the course of the drying of the straw, it curls up naturally, so that a flat straw of ½ inch wide, becomes round and less than $\frac{1}{16}$ inch.

I may further mention that for using the straw, the two fringes or outside edges of each straw, are again torn off. About three inches from top, and two inches from bottom of straw are cut off, and the remainder is the part used for making the hats.

———:o:———

DISEASES OF PLANTS.

It was only in the year 1911 that the Infectious Diseases of Plants Law was passed and came into force here. The necessity for such a Law was long recognized by this Society, but it took some years before the time was considered ripe to press the matter upon the Government. When first broached there was talk of "interfering with the Liberty of the Subject," we presume the right to keep diseased trees if one liked, a danger to neighbours and to the island.

It took years to change this feeling and the change came through our Branch Societies.

Many trees in the West End were dying through Bud Rot. Careful growers cut down their diseased trees, but for every careful grower there were ninety-nine who were not careful.

The Agricultural Instructor, Mr. Cradwick, when he was in the West End, called attention to the prevalence of Bud Rot there, and some careful growers followed his instructions, some under his instruction became careful. As is usual too, many people thought that the trees ought to die out some time; Providence killed them, and therefore there should be no interference.

The Sav.-la-Mar Branch was the first branch to send forward a Resolution, asking whether a Law could not be passed, compelling people to cut down diseased trees, trees that were left to stand and rot and spread diseases all around. A few individual coconut growers had already written that this ought to be done. This was between 1907 & 1910. Other Branch Societies followed with similar recommendations.

The Board of Management was glad to have this support to their representations made to the Government and in November, 1910, repeated their representation that it was absolutely necessary to have a Diseases of Plants Law. In May, 1911 this Law was passed.

It is a comparatively mild Law compared with those in force in other countries. Here is a copy of a Law regarding coconut trees in the Philippine Islands.

Act No. 286 of the Legislative Council of Moro Province, passed April 29th, 1912, is printed herewith and, though a drastic measure, provides the only apparent remedy for the beetle scourge which has already created great havoc in the coconut groves of this Province. This Act as proposed was given publicity several weeks ago, and discussion of the measure was invited. As every tree infected by beetles is doomed to death and is also a nucleus of infection for all surrounding trees, the sooner radical measures are adopted for the destruction of infected trees and the discontinuance of breeding places, the better for the welfare of the entire coconut industry.

We anticipate that there will be much dissatisfaction with the enforcement of this law by those who already have infected trees; but as the safety of remaining, sound trees, as well as future plantings, depends upon prompt and radical measures, it is to be hoped that there may be co-operation of all coconut owners in saving this most important industry.

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the owner or person in charge of any coconut tree which is dead or attacked by the *Raynchophorus ferrugineus*, commonly known as the red beetle, to immediately uproot such tree and either to burn the same or to bury it in the ground at a depth not less than one metre or completely submerge it in water so that said tree may not serve as a breeding place for beetles and that the beetle and eggs and larvae thereof which may be contained in the said tree shall be totally destroyed.

Section 2. Any owner or person in charge of coconut trees who shall neglect or refuse to perform the duty imposed upon him by the next preceding section shall be liable to a fine not exceeding fifty pesos [about £5] for every tree in respect to which such neglect or refusal occurs.

Section 3. It shall be unlawful for any person to keep or permit to remain on premises owned or occupied by him dead coconut trees or stumps, coconut timber or rubbish heaps, vegetable refuse, or other matter likely to harbour or become breeding places for the *Orcytes rhinoceros* commonly known as the black beetle, or the *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus*, commonly known as the red beetle, and any such person who shall neglect or refuse to remove or destroy the same when requested so to do in writing by any officer of the district or municipality wherein said premises are located, or by any owner or occupant of land planted with coconut trees and situated within one mile of the premises on which such dead coconut trees or stumps, coconut timber or rubbish heaps, vegetable refuse, or other matter are kept, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding two hundred pesos [about £20].

Section 4. Upon the conviction of any person under sections two or three hereof the governor of the district wherein such premises are located shall cause such dead coconut trees or stumps, coconut timber or rubbish heaps, vegetable refuse, or other such matter to be removed or destroyed, and the costs necessary therefor shall be a lien upon the property and collectable as are other taxes upon real property.

Section 5. All provincial, district or municipal officers shall have access at all reasonable times into and upon any land whereon any coconut tree is growing for the purpose of inspecting such tree and also into and upon any land or premises where there is reason to suppose that there are kept any such things as in article three hereof are referred to.

The longer our fields are occupied by crops, the more subject they will be to disease especially if allowed to grow themselves without attention.

The greatest curse of the country is indifference. Everyone *should interest himself or herself in Plant Sanitation.*

——:o:——

COTTON.

We published in the last JOURNAL on page 16, a Gazette Notice in which the Government, on the recommendation of this Society gave power to the Inspectors of Plant Diseases to order to be cut down and destroyed any Cotton plants, affected with Leaf Blister Mite, and at the same time placed under control the importation of cotton seed. Since then the Government have made the following rules for dealing with Leaf Blister Mite of Cotton, and have also given a description of the disease.

Gazette Notice :—Thursday September 18th, 1913.

No. 475. 17th September, 1913.

The Governor directs the publication, for general information, of the following Rules made by His Excellency in Privy Council under Section 3 (1) of Law 35 of 1911, The Diseases of Plants Law, 1911, together with a description of Leaf Blister Mite of Cotton.

1.—If any person owning or being in charge of cotton plants which show signs of being attacked by the Leaf Blister Mite (Eriophyes gossypii) shall uproot and completely destroy by fire every part of every plant so attacked

2.—The leaves of all cotton plants contiguous to those uprooted and destroyed shall be thoroughly dusted with a mixture of sulphur and lime in the proportion of one part of sulphur to two parts of lime.

This must not be regarded as a remedy, however, but merely as a means of checking the spread of the injurious mite.

Made by the Governor in Privy Council this 9th day of September, 1913.

F. L. PEARCE,
Clerk Privy Council.

DESCRIPTION OF LEAF BLISTER MITE OF COTTON.

The Leaf Blister Mite attacks all parts of the cotton plant except the roots. The blisters are minute, green swellings usually massed together and are most noticeable on the upper surface of the leaves. Each swelling is really a little pocket lined with hairs and opening on the underside of the leaf.

The Mites live amongst the hairs in the pockets piercing and sucking the sap from the leaf cells, and causing blisters to form by the irritation. This mite is related to the "red spider" which does so much damage to the leaves of sweet potatoes and other crops, but is much smaller and cannot be seen by the naked eye as it is less than one-hundreth of an inch long.

By command,

P. C. CORK,
Colonial Secretary.

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COURSES IN AGRICULTURE.

The following are colleges in England and Wales at which Agricultural courses are given and Degrees in agriculture conferred:—

University College of Wales Aberystwyth.
University College of North Wales, Bangor.
Cambridge University.
University of Leeds.
Armstrong College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
University of Oxford
University College, Reading.

The following are purely Agricultural Colleges which confer diplomas:—

Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester.
College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Holmes Chapel, Cheshire.
Midland Agricultural and Dairy College, Kingston, Derby.
Harper-Adams Agricultural College, Newport, Salop.
Horticultural College, Swanley, Kent.
Agricultural and Horticultural College, Uckfield, Sussex.
South-Eastern Agricultural College, Wye, Kent.

The following are special institutions dealing with agriculture where good training is given:—

British Dairy Institute, Reading.
Harris Institute, Preston.
National Fruit and Cider Institute.
Royal Horticultural Society's School, Wisley, Surrey.
Bedfordshire County Council: The Bedford Agricultural Institute, Ridgemont, Aspley Guise.
Cheshire County Council: The Worlseton Dairy Institute.
Cumberland and Westmoreland County Councils: Farm School, Newton Rigg, Penrith.
Denbighshire County Council: Dairy School.
Essex County Council: East Anglican Institute of Agriculture, Chelmsford.
Hampshire County Council: Farm School, Basing.
Hereford County Council.
Lancashire County Council: The County Council Farm, Hutton, Lancs.
Shropshire County Council: Technical School for girls, Radbrook, Shrewsbury.

Somerset County Council: Fixed Cheese School.
Warwickshire County Council: Dairy School.
Yorkshire County Council: The Dairy School, Garforth Leeds.
Worcester County Council: Droitwich Experimental Garden

Women attend courses of study at the majority of the institu tions described above. A few institutions are devoted entirel to women, viz., the Horticultural College, Swanley, Kent, th Horticultural College, Studley, Warwickshire, the Worleston Dair Institute, and the Technical School for girls at Rodbrook. Th following agricultural institutions are also attended by women fo courses either in agriculture, horticulture, dairying or poultr keeping: University College and British Dairy Institute, Reading Midland Agricultural and Dairy College, Kingston Derby; anc Harris Institute, Preston. The Farm Schools and Dairy School described also provide special courses for women students. Fo full information as to the facilities available for women at any o the above mentioned institutions application should be made to th Principal.

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FORESTS AND LANDSLIPS.

Among the conflicting opinions on the preservative action o forests against landslips it is certain that forests have a very important action in modifying the surface of the soil.

There has been in the past a great deal of exaggeration in considering forests as the only remedy against landslips, and sufficient by themselves to reclaim any locality; while deforestation was believed to be the principal, if not the only, cause of landslides. This was no doubt an exaggerated view, but not so harmful as the opposite opinion that tends to deny that forests in themselves are factors of stability, and that reduces to the lowest terms their importance as a means of defence against landslips.

On the contrary, from the foregoing it appears:—

1. That in several cases forests alone are a sufficient protection against landslips.
2. That forests are in many cases necessary and valid aids to other means of defence.
3. That forests are never injurious to the stability of slopes, on which they always exert a protective action.
4. That deforestation alone has frequently been sufficient to cause, to favour, and to develop landslips.
5. That deforestation has always been found useless, and frequently injurious, to the stability of slopes.

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CORN GROWING.

St. Catherine has never been noted as a corn growing parish, but interest in the growing of corn has been largely increased by the activity of the Agricultural Instructor in this direction. The best demand this year for seed corn has come from St. Catherine. The

largest number of competitors for the prizes offered for the best plot of seed corn grown in any School Garden, has come from St. Catherine more than double any other parish. We quote two good results as recorded in the Instructor's report for August:—

"In February the teacher at Guanaboa Vale, Mr. E. J. Hendricks, planted a *plot of corn, not quite a square chain, and reaped nearly five bushels from it.* At this place several stalks bore 3 and 4 ears, and in two instances there were 6 ears on a stalk.

"I have also to record the case of Alfred Tucker of Jubilee, who planted a quarter acre of corn, 3 feet by 2 feet and throughout the whole of this plot there is not a single stalk with less than two ears. I shelled six ears obtained from two stalks and this gave a quart. Two ears had eighteen rows, and 49 to 52 grains in each row. I may mention that Tucker forked his land before planting, and carefully selected each grain; the land is a sandy loam for about 18 inches and a yellowish clay below. He promises to give an account of the yield when he gathers in the corn next week. The important feature of this experiment of Tucker's. is, that several persons in the district have been so impressed with the results, that they are making preparations to plant on an extensive scale on similar lines, in other words they have realized the value of proper methods of cultivation."

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COMMENTS.

CORRESPONDENTS please note that letters to this office are not free. Only outgoing postage is free.

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PRÆDIAL LARCENY.—We have asked each Branch Society to discuss the problem of Prædial Larceny and we trust that they will do so with the object of trying to solve some of the difficulties in dealing with this very complicated subject.

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STOCK ON ROADS.—It is a far too common practice in some districts for people to let their stock run on the roadside to feed. In other districts there is a general carelessness about gates, and in moving stock from place to place, so that stock are always out on the road or trespassing on unfenced cultivations. And where nearly all are sinners in these respects no one moves to get this very dangerous practice stopped. It is more dangerous now than formerly, because in these days of motors, the lives of both animals and human beings are endangered. In some parishes there is hardly any of such road trespass, in others it is common. St. Thomas ye East is the worst offender we have visited.

—:o:—

BANANA TAX.—It has been a relief to everyone to know that the United States will not tax bananas imported into that country, as was proposed in order to secure revenue. No one could estimate how the proposed tax would affect us; perhaps it would hardly have been known, but it was disturbing. It might possibly have done us some good, if it had obliged the companies to buy by weight, instead of by the stem. It is however, often good policy to let well alone.

—:o:—

FREIGHT ON COPRA.—"In the article dealing with *Copra* on page 21 of your JOURNAL for September, we notice it is stated that the freight is *at present* 52/- per ton (we presume from outports to London),

This is incorrect, as in order to encourage the manufacture of the article the rate of freight has for some time now, been reduced to 41/- per ton.

We shall be obliged by your giving publicly to this in your next issue."

(Sgd). The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

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BIRDS.—*At the Half Yearly Meeting of this Society it* was stated, as has been stated often before, that men and boys, but especially boys, commonly use catapults to kill small birds and it was proposed to make the use of catapults illegal. To do this would have meant the preparation and passing of a special Law. The Board of Management however did not press the Government to pass such a Law, on the ground that catapults seemed a very trifling thing to take so much trouble about. Catapults however serve no useful purpose, but are only used for the killing of small birds most of which are useful, Every reader of the JOURNAL should be aware that certain birds are protected all the year through, and may not be killed, wounded or taken at any time, and their eggs are also protected. Then there are other classes of birds which are only protected during the breeding season such as Petcharies, Pigeons, Parrots and Paroquets. Nearly all the small birds are protected during the year. The exceptions are the Brown Finch or Jack Sparrow and some large birds Chicken Hawk and John Crows are not protected at any time and can be destroyed. Owls are strictly protected.

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RUBBER.—The price of Rubber has continued so very high of late years that its use has been greatly restricted, compared with what might have been if the product was cheaper. It has gone down but is still too high for many purposes.

When the production becomes larger, it will be used for very many purposes, not possible at present. The making of pavements of rubber instead of concrete or paving stones will be one purpose. There will be less wear and tear on people's boots in towns and large cities then, than at present. Possibly even, the principal streets in cities may have rubber surfaces. More and more will the tires of vehicles be made of rubber, and in the years to come iron tires will hardly be seen. The decks of ships will be made of rubber; possibly part of the internal fittings of ships will be made of rubber, especially where a fragile cargo is carried, such as fruit; and so on.

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EXHIBITIONS.—An International Exhibition is to be held in Bristol beginning in July 1914, and the Fourth International Rubber Exhibition is to be held in London from June 24th to July 9th, 1914.

It has been decided that Jamaica will not be represented at either of these Exhibitions.

There is a movement on foot to organize an International Exhibition in Jamaica to mark the formal opening of the Panama Canal in the beginning of 1915.

The idea is to have it run from December 1914 to April 1915 and utilise the Jamaican exhibits for the great British Dominions Exhibition to be held in London in 1915, beginning in May of that year.

It will be a very debateable question, no doubt, as to whether little Jamaica should be so ambitious as to attempt another Exhibition. This is an age of advertising: the question is simply will it pay us sufficient interest on the Capital expended on an Exhibition, to make it worth our while risking our capital?

Exhibitions are common now-a-days. Have we attractions enough to offer to bring at least 10,000 strangers here, within four months? if so our Exhibition would pay.

The steamship fares represent £20 at least on an average; a week's stay here represents £10 at least. Ten times ten thousand is one hundred thousand pounds circulated in this colony, as a minimum, and that is as a present result. In addition there would be future prospects through the advertising of the colony.

Is it worth while risking an expenditure of £50,000 on the chance of bringing in £100,000? We do not take into account the attendance at the Exhibition. What comes out of our own pockets here is not real gain. An attendance of 500,000 in six months at 1s. a piece, could be estimated on, as of course many would go many times. That is only £25,000. Then there is the rent of stalls.

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The Jamaica Exhibit at the Toronto Exhibition, was fine, and was the centre of attraction, 1,009,000 people visited the Exhibition, and there is not the slightest doubt that Jamaica will profit from the advertisement it received. It should be carried out on a much larger scale from year to year, in fact many were the expressions that there should be a permanent Exhibition of West Indian products in Toronto."

Canadian Correspondent.

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INSTRUCTORS.—The new Agricultural Instruetor for Central and Northern Manchester and Central and Northern St. Elizabeth in place of Mr. Palache is Mr. Thomas Powell who will live at Hibernia, Mile Gully P.O.

There were sixteen applicants of which five were selected as candidates.

Mr. Powell was already on the reserve list for appointment and had already acted in place of Mr. Palache and none of the new candidates, on examination was found superior.

He has had a varied experience on large estates and in private practice, in nearly all the ordinary crops of Jamaica, and this experience should make him extremely useful to the Parishes which he will cover as Instructor.

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SHOWS TO BE HELD.—Porus—at Porus, Manchester, December 4th, 1913.

Clarendon—at Chapelton, January 1st, 1914.
Santa Cruz—at Santa Cruz, January 1st, 1914.
Rio Magno—at Rio Magno, St. Catherine, January 8th, 1914.
Stony Hill—at Stony Hill, St. Andrew, January 28th, 1914.
Glengoffe—26th March, 1914.
St. Thomas ye Vale—at Bybrook. St. Catherine, April 16th, 1914.

STOCK NOTES.

Dangers of Drenching.—Through ignorance or want of thought or carelessness, or because the knowledge that a thing is wrong and causes pain has never been brought to their notice, some men often practice very great cruelty on animals.

One way horses and cows, etc., are often subjected to unnecessary suffering and by which permanent harm is caused instead of good being done, is in drenching.

Men will give a drench consisting of hot and burning ingredients, like turpentine, ginger, pepper and Jeyes, not even properly diluted, and sometimes pour it into the nostrils of a horse. In no case at all should a drench be given through the nose, as not only is the lining of the passage delicate and sensitive, but there is great danger of the drench passing into the windpipe, instead of down the gullet. Then again, when a drench is given by the mouth, care should be observed that any burning substance is fully diluted with water or oil. Another fatal error is that the lower jaw or the tongue is often held tight, sometimes both, either of which will effectually prevent the animal from swallowing the drench. The lower jaw must be left free to work, so must the tongue, and it is effective in preventing the drench being returned or retained too long, simply to hold the upper jaw only, up. The moment an animal coughs, let the head down, for a cough means that some of the drench has gone into the windpipe, and if not allowed to be coughed up, would go into the lungs and cause inflamation. Better to let the drench waste.

A few simple, elementary but useful facts about animal physiology might be taught in schools, and one of the most vital to all who may handle animals, is this fact that there are two passages from the back of the throat into the body, viz: the gullet down which food and water should go to the stomach, and the windpipe through which the air passes into and out of the lungs. Yet we have met so many men who treat animals as if they were unaware of this simple fact, and no doubt many have never thought about it.

Many animals have been killed by a drench going "down the wrong way" although the cause of death may not have been known or suspected. The animal has usually a husky cough or wheeze, and simply wastes away. Its pining is put down to other causes.

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Pests.—Pests on stock are prevalent during the hot months. Keep Paranaph in stock, no stock keeper should let his supply run out. It is a good wash for all stock. It kills lice in fowls; lice in dogs; lice on goats and pigs (then animals often have lice quite unsuspected by their owners) hair lice on horses, and leaves the skin clean, and in conjunction with Coopers Dip Powder, kills ticks on cows. One man used the Paranaph to make the disinfectant he uses sticky (see our advertisement of Antiseptics and Disinfectants—Jeyes, Universal, Kreso Dip) and says it is a success.

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Fever.—Try Trypan Blue which for long has been used with success in South Africa, in connection with tick fever in cows and biliary fever in dogs, and has been used also with success at the Stock Farm at Hope, for fever in cows. The dose is 8 fluid ozs. of a 2% solution.

EXPLANATION OF 1 IN 50 ETC.—The proportions of disinfectants and antiseptic fluids to be used are usually given in figures as 1 in 50, 1 in 100, and we find that rather than trouble to remember what these proportions represent, people guess quantities with the result that these fluids like Jeyes are nearly always used far too strong, resulting in waste and often in positive injury to animals. It is easier for most to use common measures. A special teaspoon, dessertspoon and tablespoon should be kept for measuring fluids and powders meant for use with stock,

Usually 1 teaspoonful of Jeyes or other coal tar, disinfectant is enough for a quart of water for use in washing fresh or healing wounds. Foul sores can take double this proportion. A teaspoonfull to a quart of water is roughly 1 in 400, a dessertspoonful to a quart of water is 1 in 200, a tablespoonful to a quart of water is 1 in 100: 1 in 50 is more accurately 1 ounce or 2 tablespoonfuls to 2½ pints of water.

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SALT.—Keep rock salt handy for all your stock to have a lick at it.

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HORSES; EXPERIMENTS ON TELEGONY.—That there is no influence of a previous impregnation of a mare on subsequent progeny has been proved by Dr. J. C. Ewart of Edinburgh University, but a recent birth at the Bureau of Animal Industry's farm helps to confirm it.

The registered Morgan mare Baby Gates was bred for the first time to a Grevy zebra by artificial impregnation. She foaled a female hybrid on June 2, 1912. At the first period of heat she was bred to the registered Morgan stallion Pat Murphy, and on May 14, 1913, foaled a filly which is an excellent individual of the breed and absolutely free from any of the markings or other characteristics of the zebra. Ewart's investigations with the Burchell zebra gave the same results. No one, therefore, need hesitate to breed their mares to a jack, as subsequent progeny by a stallion will not show the characteristics of the jack. Although few experiments on this subject with other animals have been made, it is almost certain that telegony occurs in no species of animals.

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PIGS.—Pigs are very much in demand now that foodstuffs are becoming plentiful. If a census could be taken it would be found that the Island is very much unders tocked. We have known times when pigs were so plentiful that it was difficult to sell them. Since the long drought in 1907 they have however, been rather scarce, foodstuffs became scarce, and people not being able to feed their pigs, they were sent to market, or were consumed at home. We were nearly up to normal in 1911, when the 1912 drought threw us further back than ever. Those with good breeding stock now, should hang on to them. Next spring when bananas look to become very abundant and most other foodstuffs as well, there will be a good demand for breeding stock.

People however should keep close watch on their pigs and try to understand something about the ailments they are afflicted with. Often pigs look very unthrifty, yet they are greedy and consume plenty of food. This is usually an indication of worms. No other animal is so afflicted with parasites and it is too common that diseased

pork is put on the markets. When this is what is called "Measly Pork," it is very dangerous. The Measles or mottles in the flesh are the cysts or cells containing the eggs of the worst of all pests, Trichinosis, which can easily be communicated to human beings.

A convenient medicine and dose for all parasites in pigs is, for a medium size of pig, 1 dessertspoonful of Jeyes (or similar antiseptic as advertised in this JOURNAL) and a tablespoonful of condensed milk, dissolved in a pint of water, to be given on an empty stomach, an hour or two after, give half a pint of Castor oil.

Repeat the dose in a week.

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GOATS.—"A woman here after listening to an address by the Agricultural Instructor in which he urges the necessity of improving the breed of goats by getting one that would give at least two quarts of milk daily, has decided to purchase a pair. Please let me know the total cost of one pair delivered at Lucea."

Reply.—

"It is not possible to procure in Jamaica 2 quart goats. They are not common anywhere outside of a few countries like Switzerland, France, Malta and the United Kingdom. In the last named, the breeding of milch goats has advanced greatly in recent years, and milch goats giving two quarts at morning and evening milking are becoming more common, yet are not plentiful.

It is exceedingly difficult to get in Jamaica a goat that will give one quart in the morning. They have yet to be bred to give more. It is a slow process improving stock by breeding, and when it comes to dairy stock, it can be done only through the use of a sire of milk strain, and it is necessary that care, skill and attention be given in all the details of mating, feeding and handling.

It is the work of years of careful breeding to produce a good strain of milch goats."

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DOGS.—Do not forget to wash the dogs once a week with any of the disinfectants advertised in the JOURNAL.

If they get some skin disease that does not yield to washing-remember to make the Sulphur, Kerosene and lard paste as mentioned under Stock Notes in the July JOURNAL, page 36, and rub it well into the skin. Give the dog a dose of two teaspoonsful of Sulphur, according to its size, in its food, three or four days running, then stop.

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POULTRY NOTES.

BREEDS.—At different times various breeds of poultry have had extensive popularity, only in a few years to be superseded by another variety in the popular fancy.

Probably Buff Orpingtons held sway longer than most breeds have done; now White Wyandottes are the popular fowls in England, and they have been bred to a wonderful degree of size and beauty.

In the United States White Leghorns have largely superseded Plymouth Rocks in popular favour and in Australia White Leghorns are the general favourites for egg laying, followed by Black Orpington as utility fowls. But nearly all breeds have their advantages. Here a good utility breed is certainly most useful as people in the country have to depend largely upon poultry for the table, more than in most countries. Leghorns have the disadvantage of being small and light and unless young cockerels, well fed, are no use on the table. Fat young cockerels are passable, other birds are usually light, and scraggy. They suit best however where eggs for selling are wanted. There are always of course breeders who remain true to the breeds they know and have had success with. People who jump about from different breed to different breed, have never much success. It suits those abroad who breed stock birds for sale as a matter of business always to have what the public want, and so many breeds are kept. Here the thing is to find out a breed, or combination of breeds, that you can take an interest in, that you like, and that suits your district and your requirements. The best way to get success is to stick to what succeeds, irrespective of fads and fancies.

The greatest reason for non-success in the poultry yard is the habit of close inbreeding. In a dozen poultry yards we know of, that have had much trouble, ten had introduced no fresh blood, or had bought very much inbred birds; the cocks and the hens were very close relations.

With regard to fresh blood, there has always been a great difficulty in getting fresh cocks readily, and without a great deal of trouble and risk in getting them. We have for several years been trying to help the poultry industry by encouraging breeders who are willing to raise pure bred stock, by keeping them in touch with customers, and acting as a medium of supply. We are in touch with breeders of long standing who have stuck to the same breed and improved it through a good many years. That is the only way to understand a breed and get reliable breeding stock, so long as fresh blood is carefully and regularly introduced. Several good breeders import fresh cocks regularly in order to keep up the strength and vigour of their flock.

There are many people however, who do not wish to go to the expense of getting a pure-bred bird, and are quite contented with a cross bred or half bred which often suits their purposes quite well. A cross breed does not mean a cross of a pure-bred with a common fowl; that is a half breed; but the cross between two pure breeds. Some good young cross bred birds are often available at 4s. to 6s. when pure-breds would be 10s. to 15s.

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CHARRED CORN.—When the new crop of corn comes in, the tendency is to feed plenty of corn and only corn. It is certainly the handiest food and the cheapest, but it is not satisfactory to use one kind of food in one form. In the first place corn should never be fed whole as the fowls can gobble it up too quickly. The corn should be cracked and then sifted to take the fine flour out, which otherwise would be wasted on the ground. Then the cracked corn should not be flung down thickly in the yard; indeed no food should

be fed in the yard, as the earth there soon gets soiled and infected with droppings. The cracked corn should be taken away from the home a bit, and scattered far and wide among grass or underneath the trees and plants like coffee and bananas, which usually are growing near houses. The fowls will then spend happy and busy hours looking for the food and all will get time to pick up an equal share. When whole corn is fed thick on the ground, the greediest and most "forward" fowls get more than their due share, and the timid ones are half starved.

But fowls get tired of eating corn and nothing but corn in the same form, yet even with corn alone, the form it is fed in can be so varied that it is almost as good as a different kind of food. First, whole corn can be boiled ; put on the fire in a pan or pot in the evening after the last meal has been cooked, and allow the corn to cook until the grain becomes soft yet not pappy. The corn is usually ready in the morning if put over a good fire in the evening, and allowed to stand until morning. This makes a good morning meal. Then charring or parching the corn, about half as much as coffee, serves the double purpose of a change of food (as in the dry heating process the starch is changed to dextrine as in toasting bread), and acts beneficially, the little charcoal on the outside of the corn after parching being especially good for the digestion.

Now is the time when your growing chickens give trouble. Poultry rearing cannot be satisfactorily done without having some enclosures in order to be able to separate the fowls at pleasure. The young cockerels should be separated from the hens and pullets just before they start to crow, and put by themselves. In this way they will grow quicker and if any have to be kept for breeding purposes they will be stronger birds.

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For fattening birds, a little charcoal can be added to the food. Experiments have found that it helps the digestion of the other food ; and birds with a little charcoal added to their other food shewed more gain than those not so fed.

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SEASONABLE HINTS.

VEGETABLES.—The best time for planting "garden" vegetables of all kinds is approaching, and that is the month of November. Some risk planting out in October but there are two drawbacks in doing so ; the weather is still too hot and forcing and the heavy seasons rains may come, as they are always expected to come, and wash out the seeds or damage the seedlings. The best time to plant is just as soon as the heavy rains are over ; the weather becomes cool ; the earth is saturated with moisture ; and if only the land is broken up beforehand ready to be made into beds, there need be no delay in planting. We have usually found vegetable seeds so fertile that in spite of planting as we supposed thinly, the young plants generally grow too thickly. When too thick they grow spindly and are not so readily lifted to transplant. It is better to sow thinly in drills rather than sow broadcast. Many mistakes are made in preparing seed beds. Some do not break up

the soil fine enough and they sow seeds among small clods. Others make the soil soft enough but plant in loose soil; then they complain of seed not germinating or growing weakly. Others plant too deep. The smaller the seed the shallower it must be planted; peas may be planted two inches deep, lettuce seeds merely raked in, barely covered.

After the beds are made they should be firmed down with the back of a spade or a board; it is a good plan to use a board and walk on it. Then make drills the required depth; turn the back of the rake and smooth and firm the bottom of drill. Then plant the seeds thinly, cover; firm the soil down again and gently draw the teeth of the rake across to break the surface again. The principle is that the seed must be in a soft but firm seed bed; the seed must come closely in contact with the soil, so that when the fine rootlets start they find food material at once, not find themselves in air spaces and so become dried out; yet the soil is soft, so that they have no difficulty in growing through it. It is a good plan to lay a fine mulch between the rows after planting, and when the young plants grow an inch, draw the mulch up to them to prevent the soil baking and if watering is required, one good soaking goes further than if the soil is bare.

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POTATOES.— November is the time when potatoes (Irish) can be best grown in the lowlands and up to about 1,500 feet. But those in the hills who intend planting in March and April for the summer crop should plant some "seed" in November and choose the best of the crop for their own seed. They can test it then against the seed imported in the spring. We have usually found the first seed grown from the imported seed gives best results, so be it the potatoes have been grown well.

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TOBACCO.—From the middle of August all through September is usually the best period for planting out nurseries if the weather is favourable, but in case of accident, an October nursery is good to hold in reserve.

Through the lessons of the past few years when so many nurseries were destroyed by drought and rain, and plants consequently scarce, most growers have planted nurseries more extensively than before to make sure of plants.

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BANANAS.—If plants and ratoons are not grown so much that they look almost ready to shoot they will not give fruit early in the spring. There are of course districts where the climate is not only hot but very humid and where the soils are rich and growth goes on, during the winter; but Jamaica has a distinct winter, or "cool-weather", and generally speaking strictly tropical crops show very little growth between November and March. In the hottest lowlands, ratoons to fruit in the spring of 1915 should be at the lowest just over knee high, and in cooler places up to breast high. It is still hard to get this understood by small settlers, as well as many of

the large growers; that is the slowness of growth of ratoon bananas. The older the ratoons and the thicker the growth the earlier must following plants be left free to grow

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COCOA.—The hot time of the year with the humidity of the atmosphere, forces young shoots or gormandizers to grow freely. Now is the time to prune all these off except such cases where the old tree is damaged badly or rotten, and a new stem, placed as low as possible, may be allowed to grow to replace the old one. Pruning is a science but not too exact. It is simple to prune trees that have been well grown and kept well regulated from the first. but trees of all shapes and manner of growth, that have been damaged by falling bananas or in storms and so on, require some study and each must be judged by itself. The idea is to have branches well placed, as evenly spaced as possible, and not to allow bunches of useless twigs to grow. Sometimes a gormandizer may be allowed to grow to balance the tree. All rotten parts must be dug out to clean wood, and where there is a deep hole that would catch water, it should be filled up with concrete, 4 of sand to one of cement and tarred over, especially at the sides; that is for large holes; small holes can be filled with tar thickened with cement; this mixture sticks. Tar every pruning cut carefully. Do not slop on tar, to run down the bark of the tree, as it burns; rub it in with a brush, made from the husk of the coconut.

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BRANCH NOTES.

Bloxburgh—St. Andrew.—The ordinary monthly meeting took place on Monday, 1st September. 15 members present, including the Revd. T. N. Brown, the newly elected president. The Vice-President took the chair, Mr. A. H. Smikle, meeting called to order by the roll call after which minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The Vice-President gave a warm and stirring address for the better working of the Society also instructing many of those who cannot read for themselves which was very helpful to the meeting. We are glad of the election of our new president because of his wide influence in agricultural work which we believe will be of great help to us. The Hon. B. S. Gossett Halberstadt, Custos of the Parish, name has been enrolled as a member. Also Mr. Hector Josephs, Barrister. We as a society feel glad in having these gentlemen as members. This Branch Society sends a cordial welcome to Mr. Hanson our Instructor asking him to visit us soon. We are really in need of his visits in our District. Three authorized persons have been chosen by the Society—their names to be submitted to the Parent Society—Mr. George Nethersole. Louis Darby, and Hezekiah Moodie. The Secretary was instructed to write for book of instruction for Authorized Persons and also to enquire price of the following: Sweet potatoe, Cassava plants, Kidney Beans, Rat Exterminator, Yellow Yam, Slug shot. Meeting then adjourned.—S. ROBINSON, Secretary.

Glengoffe—St. Catherine.—The regular monthly meeting was held in the Grateful Hill Schoolroom on Tuesday evening the 2nd inst. There were present: Alex. Carey, Esq., presiding, Rev. T. M. Sherlock, V. P., and about 66 others. The minutes were read and confirmed. Letters were read from the Secretary J. A. S. (a) *Re* Prize Holding Competition, which will be held in September, the Instructor said it has now been postponed to December. (b) *Re* Authorised Persons, these were asked to be more alive to their responsibilities, and Messrs,

Walter Eccles, and Peter Henry were nominated as Authorized Persons. (c) Circular re Cocoa pods and Bark. It was agreed that the sale of Cocoa in pods should not be prohibited, but the police should be asked to exercise vigilance and prevent people buying without licenses and that produce dealers keep their book strictly in accordance with the law, setting down the name and recording other information, in every purchase of produce. It was suggested by Mr. Northover Authorized Persons be given power to inspect these books—but it was put to the vote and lost. A letter was read from Mr. Northover, correcting certain statements made at the last meeting and informing the Society that the ground was at its disposal at any time. The Secretary was instructed to thank him for the kind offer. A letter from Mr. Septimus, Above Rocks, was read asking the Society to make representation re the neglect of a certain road—a committee of the President, Vice-President and Secretary was appointed to draft a petition to be presented at the next meeting for signature. Mr. Hanson, the new Instructor, received a hearty welcome and delivered a very interesting address on agriculture generally—touching on the pruning of Cocoa trees and preparing holdings for Prize Holdings Competition. He was accorded a hearty vote of thanks. A resolution asking the Government through the Jamaica Agricultural Society to deviate the Road at Cassava River Hill was moved by the Rev. Sherlock. Seconded by Mr. Carey—and passed unaimously. The meeting then adjourned to 11th October, 1913.—THOS. E. COOTE, Secretary.

Labyrinth—St. Mary.—On Tuesday 2nd Sept. the monthly meeting was held in the schoolroom at 4.30 There were eleven members present besides the President and Secretary and two visitors. Meeting began with prayer by the President. Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. A lengthy discussion then followed. At this stage President gave thanks to the Society for letter of condolence sent to him during his illness. Final arrangements were then discussed for the corn competition. It was agreed by all that the planting must be done in October. The Secretary read a paragraph from the JOURNALS as to the best way the digging and planting should be done so as to get the best returns. The fund for the competition being low, the President suggested that collecting books should be given to the members. All did not agree to the suggestion. Mr. Morris then moved that letters be sent to some of the gentlemen toward asking their aid. It was agreed to. At this stage some of the members gave some striking reports with regard to the returns of the Broom corn seeds planted. Mr. Hyatt suggested that as we are in our Infancy with regard to this plant that the Secretary be written to, asking for instruction as to the best way of planting the seeds, etc. It was agreed to wait for the next visit of the Instructor when he will give us the necessary information. Next business was the purchasing of the goat. The Secretary read a letter from Mr. Barclay with regard to the ram. It was stated that Mr. Arnett will be getting the ram from a small settler who had once the use of his imported Anglo-Nubian. The members did not agree to have that ram, and the Secretary was asked to write to Mr. Barclay for information. The President asked that the members write and get an imported Poland China Boar, and a grind-stone. The members agreed to the suggestion but asked that these should remain over until the Corn Competition is finished with. The meeting then came to a close with the singing of the National Anthem.

Q. ALPHONSO GOHAGEN, Secretary.

Central—St. Mary—This Branch had its regular monthly meeting in the Eliot Schoolroom on the 2nd Sept. The President, Mr. J. A. Banks presiding. There were present fourteen members besides the Secretary and some visitors. Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. Rev. A. N. Shirley was proposed a member. The produce License Law came up for much discussion at this meeting, and the measures that might be adopted to stem the praedial larceny evil so rampant, in spite of all that is being done to lessen it. Many suggestions were made as to what might be done in the direction of lessening the evil. Re, the suggestion made at the recent meeting of the Parent Society to have the praedial thief do work along the road and public places from which the thief comes, it was argued that this would not have the desired effect, as

the thieves were generally men who had sunk so low, that nothing in that line would have effect except in the way of making them worse thieves, and no doubt robbers, *for they feel that the inhabitants of their localities look upon* them as rogues. One member's suggestion was that the only scheme that would count for much, would be the impriponing of prædial thieves for longer periods, than other criminals—say for not less than two or three years. It is generally the fellow who can boast of many previous convictions, that is always being caught stealing. Whereas if he were kept away for a long time there would be less of these depredations upon the honest labourer. Then it was thought that the prædial thief's life should be made harder in the prisons. They seem to enjoy the treatment given them, and are always anxious to return. With regard to the produce license, particularly that section touching the purchase of pod cocoa, it was the general feeling that granting licenses to unprincipled shopkeepers was only encouraging the stealing of cocoa pods, especially among children. License under this class should be granted only to central factories, who could be allowed to open branches at not nearer than four or five miles apart; and that the agents of these central factories should not be shop keepers. As matters now stand, licenses are being granted to men who have little or no principle, who would even uphold the thief, if he gives in his booty below market value. In such cases no entry is made in the book provided for the purpose. Then again license was granted to men many of whom can neither read nor write English. What happens in such a case is this. The produce is bought at random, and when a chance presents itself to the purchaser, some one who can write is paid some trifle (a drink or a couple of cigars) to fill in a few names. It very often happens that the names given were never possessed by anyone within a hundred miles and who never possessed apod. The police passes round inspects the book, finds the entries made, and goes away feeling satisfied. Another suggestion was that the law should be so framed that a license holder could not buy say less than a dozen or two dozen pods at a time. There would be much good done by this if the right men had the chance to buy. A child then could not snatch a pod here, and a pod there and pass them off, and in his effort to get the minimum quantity that will be bought of him, he may be captured. The factories being placed far apart the thief would not find it so convenient to pass off his stolen property and would not put himself to the trouble of curing. This discussion having taken up so much of the afternoon there was not much time to go into other matters. The debate fixed for this meeting will come off at the next also the paper on Cut Eye Beans. The Secretary was instructed to call upon the Authorized Persons to attend meetings of the Branch more regularly. The matter of purchasing a grind stone for this Branch, is to be brought up again at the October meeting. The Secretary invited members in arears to pay up and be in a position to receive their JOURNALS, the witholding of which was a great loss and privation on the part of the members and a rather painful and unpleasant duty on his (the Secretary's) part. Subscription was received for Mr. E. J. Marzinc. The National Anthem closed the meeting.—E. A. GUNTER, Secretary.

Albany—St. Mary—The regular bi-weekly meeting was held on the 3rd September, 1913 in the Friendship Chapel. Rev. S. R. Brathwaite one of the vice-presidents filled the chair. There were present fifty-nine members also a large number of visitors. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The following among the visitors were received as members. Rev. W. D. Henderson, Messrs. J. A. Graham and Richard Lakeman. The Secretary stated that the money for the boar for the Society has been paid, since July. He read several letters to show the cause of delay. He was instructed to write at once asking that the pig be sent by the first coastal steamer to Pt. Maria. Mr. Walker asked if the Society was represented at the Half-Yearly General meeting of the Parent Society in July. Rev. S. R. Brathwaite and Mr. L. S. Clarke either of whom was asked to represent the Society showed that press of work and the Branch's Social, occurring on the same day prevented them from attending. The Treasurer gave his report, showed that all the funds of the

Society have been lodged in the Nova Scotia Bank. It was moved and seconded by the Rev. W. D. Henderson and David Campbell that the thanks of the meeting be conveyed to the members of the Social Committee who had worked hard to bring the Social to so successful an issue. The Produce Protection Law was brought up for discussion. In order to save time the Rev. W. D. Henderson moved that a committee be appointed to have the matter well discussed. This was seconded and a committee appointed. The Prædial Larceny Law was brought up for discussion, and was also referred to a special committee. The committee was asked to present report before the end of the month. The Rev. S. R. Brathwaite showed the necessity for an Authorized Person at Upper Albany and asked that steps be taken to have Mr. Joseph Cousins appointed. This was agreed to. The Secretary was instructed to move in the matter. Mr. Walker suggested that Authorized Persons be asked to give a report at each meeting. The suggestion was met with the approval of all and the Secretary was instructed to write each Authorized Persons to that effect. Mr. Walker asked if the revised rules of the Society had been printed The Secretary replied and explained why the rules had not been printed. After discussion, it was moved and seconded that the Rev. James be asked to find out the cost of printing a limited number. Rev. W. D. Henderson moved that the item on the Agenda *re* "The establishment of the proposed Fig Factory in the district be taken. This was seconded and Mr. L. S. Clarke, Chairman of the Local committee was asked to give a report of what had transpired since the committee last met. The Secretary read communication from the Secretary of the Fig Co. The Rev. Henderson expressed himself very lucidly on the matter. Other expressions of opinion were given, after which it was decided that the venture be made. It was agreed that the Agricultural Society be asked to move in the matter, a committee was then appointed to collect the 1st installment from members and to get the remaining number of share-holders, minimum 140. Each person on payment will get a receipt from local treasurer. Secretary to inform Fig Company of developments. Meeting adjourned for the 1st Wednesday in November, at Salem.—T. A. BURKE, Secretary.

Clifton-Newstead—St. Ann—The monthly meeting was held in the Lodge Mission Station at 5 p.m. on Tuesday September 4th, there were present H. E. Pittam, Esq. President, Messrs. C. W. Haynes, Vice-president, Eustace C. McLeod Secretary. Thirty-one other members and six visitors. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The Treasurer's report was presented, it showed that the funds of the Society are in a healthy condition. Correspondence received during the month was submitted. Arising out of the minutes the proposed Newstead bridge was discussed, after discussion it was agreed that H. E. Pittam, Esq., President, should write the Parochial Boards of St. Ann, and St. Mary asking the reason of the delay of the erection of such a very necessary bridge, and showing the great inconvenience the people suffer in crossing the river and the danger of little children attending the Elementary School. It was pointed out that not very long ago four children nearly got drowned on their way to school. The Upton road and the Mile-end road came up for discussion, Mr. Pittam read correspondence from the St. Ann Parochial Board regarding the openmg of new roads. The Board stated that those applying for new roads should construct the roads as far as was possible when the Board would be ready to take over the maintainence of them if they are a public necessity. It was decided that the Mile-End road leading to Union is the very necessary one and the members bave decided to work it. To carry out the project, promises to the amount of £22 5s. were made by the members, on the motion of Mr. Haynes seconded by G. Moncrieffe a road committee was formed. Meetings to be held forthnightly. It was moved and seconded the appointment of a J.P. for the district. H. E. Pittam was suggested, it was decided by the Society that Mr. C. W. Haynes should write the Custos of the parish on the subject. The rules and regulations respecting Authorised Persons were read and discussed, a hearty discussion took place. Mr. C. E. Smallhorn reported the arrest of two men for goat stealing and each received six months, The

names of the following were submitted and accepted as members of the Society: Messrs. G. W. Davis, Geo. Edwards and Samuel Davis. The holding of a Show in connection with the Society next year was discussed. The Secretary was requested to inform Mr. Jno. Barclay and to ask for a grant. The National Anthem was heartily sung and the meeting adjourned.

E. C. McLeod, Secretary.

Cambridge—St. James.—The September ordinary meeting took place in the Court House on Friday, 5th September, at 1.30. The President, Revd. J. A. McIntosh, Mr. Briscoe, the Treasurer, the Secretary and 14 other members were present. *Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.* Mr. Briscoe submitted the report of the Committee on Membership. To date 38 members have paid subscriptions for this year and their names have been sent to Mr. Barclay as *bona fide* members. The Committee still stands; Mr. Briscoe promised to stir up the members whenever he comes across them. The Secretary stated that Mr. C. Graham has given a place for the housing of the Plow and Cultivator. The Circular *re* sale of Cocoa in Pods, and Mahoe and Mahogany Bark was fully discussed and the following resolution passed: "That this Branch Society, after due discussion recommends as follows: (a) That the sale of Cocoa in Pods should be discouraged. (b) That Mahoe and Mahogany Bark should be placed in Schedule (a) of the Praedial Larceny Law 4 of 1909. It was suggested that Cedar bark be included, as, for some purpose or other, this is stripped, but the meeting decided that the resolution should remain as it is. The matter of Authorized Persons was discussed. No decision was arrived at and it was decided to resume the discussion at next meeting when the Instructor will bring with him a helpful paper on the subject. Mr. Tyson moved and Mr. Briscoe seconded: "That steps be taken to start a Penny Bank in connection with the Society." Every one present thought it desirable and a Committee was formed to go into the matter. It was decided that a grindstone be provided for the Society out of voluntary subscriptions by the members. The matter of getting a corn-sheller also was brought up but deferred. The question was asked if the Parent Society always gives seeds free. The Instructor said No, except in special circumstances. He will be glad to give some free whenever he has them. He has potted over 2,000 cocoa plants from best varieties, and would encourage the members to apply for them. The President said that Mr. Arnold, the Secretary, would be leaving shortly and Mr. E. S. McAdam, as decided on last meeting, will take his place. The following Resolution was passed unanimously: "This meeting desires to hereby place on record its regret at the loss sustained by the removal of Mr. R. M. Arnold from the district and parish, and his consequent retirement from the post of Secretary of the Cambridge (St. James) Agricultural Society. Mr. Arnold has been a painstaking and efficient Secretary: the Society regrets deeply his departure and wishes for him every blessing in his new sphere of work." Mr. Arnold thanked the meeting for the kind words and good feelings expressed and said he will be very willing to serve the Society in the future in any way he can. The meeting adjourned for 3rd October.—R. M. Arnold, Secretary.

Alexandria—St. Ann—The regular monthly meeting of this branch was held on Friday, 5th September, Mr. E. D. Lawson in the chair. Mr. Arnett, Agricultural Instructor was present and a good attendance of members. Letters from the Colonial Secretary and the Clerk St. Ann Parochial Board were read in *re* the building of a parish tank at Bethany. Also letters from the Jamaica Agricultural Society *re* "Authorized Persons." There was a lengthy discussion on this, the meeting being of opinion that if Authorized Persons were empowered to arrest vagrants praedial larceny would not be so rampart. Mr. Alfred Linton moved the following:—"That whereas the develppment of Agricultural Industry in this island is greatly hampered by the continued depredations of praedial thieves, and whereas these persons habitually abstain from work and are to be found loitering in the different districts during the day, be it resolved that the Government be asked to extend the power of Authorized Persons so that they may be able to arrest well known vagrants." The resolution was seconded by

Rev. Robt. Mettam and unanimously carried. The following persons were appointed Authorized Persons in connection with the Branch: Messrs George Gooding, Thomas Brown, Joseph James, Robert Tracey, Benjamin Smith. Mr. Arnett continued his lecture on co-operation in Ireland. He spoke of co-operation to raise money and co-operation to put produce on the market to better advantage. The members of the Branch were advised to co-operate so as to prevent the present corn crop being sold at a very small price. Notice of a motion for the next meeting was given asking the Government to go back to the old system of Rural Police in place of the present District Constables.

D. THEO. WINT, Secretary.

Mt. Industry—St. Catherine—The regular monthly meeting was held in the Long Hill schoolroom on the 5th of September, 1913. The President and Vice-President being unavoidably absent, Mr. Hanson, the Instructor, was asked to preside at the meeting. The Chairman informed the meeting that the judging of the Prize Holdings Competition is postponed to December. Members will therefore have more time to prepare their holdings for the event. It was the opinion of the meeting that Licenses should not be given for trading in cocoa in pods, as this will encourage the stealing of this produce very much. The Secretary was asked to point out to Mr. Barclay that although no arrest has been made in this district by Authorized Persons, yet the presence of these men in the district acts as a check to petty stealing; and that stealing is far from being great in this district at present. It was agreed to write the Authorized Persons connected with this Society to make a report on their work at the next meeting. M. R. S. Anglin was appointed member of the Glengoffe Show Committee. The Secretary was directed to thank the Hon. Member for St. Catherine for having presented a petition *re* Roads in this district to the Legislative Council. Mr. Hanson addressed the meeting. Earlier in the afternoon he had been demonstrating on the treatment of diseases in plants in neighbouring fields. He drew the attention of members to the fact that now is the time for them to be looking after the bananas for the spring crop of 1915 and advised members to do more trenching in their cultivations. He suggested that they look about for some means by which they can lay by a little of their savings for a "rainy day. The meeting after expressing its thanks to the Instructor for the interest he took in its members, adjourned till the 3rd of October.—R. S. ANGLIN, Secretary.

Comfort Hall—Manchester.—The meeting was held in the Comfort Hall Schoolroom at noon September 8, 1913. There were present:—Mr. G. Henry (Vice-President) presiding and many members and visitors.

The presiding officer explained that the meeting would not follow the routine order of business as there was a regrettable function to perform, one that appeals to each individual member—that of saying good-bye to Mr. Palache as Agricultural Instructor. He has been called upon to retire just at a time when his labours were showing great signs of improvement—at a time when the people were getting to know more of him and to understand him more. The minutes of the last meeting were next read and confirmed. Some questions on business arising out of the minutes were asked and replies given to the Secretary. On the motion of Mr. Munroe Messrs. S. Glanville (J.P.), C. H. Glanville and E. A. Phillips were given a hearty welcome to the meeting. Mr. Palache then expressed his pleasure at seeing the gentlemen and hoped that they will become members—especially Mr. S. Glanville who is a large land-owner in the district. They replied and the names of the gentlemen were enrolled on the Society's books. The next business was the reading and presentation of an address to the retiring Instructor, Mr. Palache. He expressed the hope that the new Instructor will find much support from the members of this Branch. Communications from the Parent Society were read. The Prædial Larceny question was the one that took some argument along with the appointment of "Authorized Persons." It was the consensus of opinion that the whole affair is a muddle and without proper instructions to these 'Authorized Persons' it is safer if they keep aloof at present as they may unknowingly get in trouble. *Re* cocoa pods stealing the Society could not offer any suggestion as the district was not a cocoa growing

one. The plot of land kindly given by Mr. D. S. Williams for a model garden was visited by the Instructor and members and some very helpful suggestions offered. The following gentlemen were appointed to serve on the Garden Committee:—Messrs. R. A. Munroe, D. S. Williams, Stephen Hibbert, James Newman and Wm. Libby. It was agreed on that members who shall be called on to work on *certain dates and can't possibly attend must send sixpence to meet* the cost of any one else who may be called on to do his share of the morning's work. The Secretary was asked to remind Mr. Barclay of seed potatoes for November planting also to write to Mr. Jackson of Santa Cruz *re* the likely cost of an "Anglo Nubian" Ram. Next meeting fixed for November 10th at 10 a.m. At this meeting Mr. D. Palmer will read a paper on Prædial Larceny—its cause and suggested remedy. The National Anthem was sung and a lengtby meeting was brought to a close.—R. A. MUNROE, Secretary.

Bunker's Hill—Trelawny.—The regular meeting came off on the 10th September, 1913 at the usual hour. In the absence of the President—Mr. Vassall—a Vice-President took the chair. Minutes of last meeting read and confirmed. Matters arising from minutes discussed The Instructor explained why he had to ask that the meeting be held on Wednesday instead of Thursday. Delegate to the proposed show committee was called upon to report on his visit. He asked the Instructor who knew more about the proposed show to give all the necessary information. This he did in detail, and submitted the proposed prize list. A discussion about the show followed. The proposed prize list was read and after a general talk over the matter it was suggested that a few more items be added to make it more complete and to satisfy the small settlers. A list of the promises towards the show fund was taken. Correspondence from Parent Society *re* Revision of "Produce Protection Law" was the next item on the agenda. The Instructor spoke on the habit of buying cocoa in the pod and how such a method encourages stealing and also the necessity for protecting the bark of such trees as mahoe, cedar, mahogany. A discussion followed after which the Secretary was directed to inform the Parent Society that the branch is quite in accord witb the proposal. The Instructor then urged many to enter for the Prize Holding Competition and left entry forms for those desirous of entering. The Secretary was directed to write to the Parent Society and ask permission that the owners of holdings comprising balf an acre be given a chance to compete as there are many who would compete if this concession be given. Mr. Vassall proposed that no member be allowed to use the grind stone until their subscriptions be paid also that the money brought in by the grind stone be set separately apart to buy a new one when the present one is worn out. Both these proposals met the unanimous agreement of all. Mr. Vassall also gave notice of motion for next meeting that Mr. Bell be remunerated in some way or other for his interest and management of the Society's grind stone. Roll was called *showing attendance of 29. Meeting closed with prayer.*

W. R. ROBOTHAM, Secretary.

Swift River—Portland—The regular monthly meeting was held at Mt. Olivet on Thursday 11th September, 1913 at 4 p.m. The President took the Chair and called the meeting to order; very few members were present, only seven. Minutes of previous meeting were read and confirmed. Roll called and one member paid his subscription. Paper on "Cocoa Cultivation" was read, written by Mr. H. Haisley though not present; it was read by the Secretary. *He promised to continue his essay on cocoa curing for the next meeting.* Points of discussion raised by E. W. Bailey, Esq. He moved that the Secretary be empowered to procure placards to put up at the entrance notifying members to attend the meetings. Motion was lost, only two members in favour and four against. The President also proposed that a committee of certain men in each locality be appointed to go around and encourage members to attend. This to be brought up at another meeting. In the meantime circulars be issued to paying members only. He also proposed to have an Agricultural Social in December. This will enliven members and many will turn out to take part in it. Since our

last meeting a Petition on behalf of the Swift River Agricultural Society was sent to the Parochial Board concerning certain sections of the Parochial roads in the district, which was dealt with and the two members representing this division of Portland were deputed to look on the road and to report to the Board. Next meeting fixed for the second Wednesday in October D.V The National Anthem was sung and the meeting was brought to a close.

D. N. PARKER, Secretary.

Stony Hill—St. Andrew.—The last regular meeting was held on the 11th September, 1913. There were present Rev. F. Bavin, President, W. J. Brooks, J. W. Crisp, Vice Presidents, W. B. Reid, Secretary and twenty-one other members, Mrs. A. P. Hanson, Messrs. Aubrey Morand and Athelstan Law, were proposed as new members and enrolled. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Rules for the guidance of Authorized Persons, which the Secretary was instructed to obtain from Mr. Barclay were read by the President and handed to the Authorized Persons present. The Secretary reported that he had written to the Parochial Board *re* improvement of roads to the Show Ground, but had not received any reply. The Secretary of the Show Committee gave his report. The completed Prize List was presented and it was decided that it be forwarded without delay to the Secretary of the Parent Society for printing. An estimate amounting to nearly £140, was received from Mr. Hanson. The discussion on the buying of Cocoa in pods took up much time. The opinions of the various speakers were so diverse and the matter appeared to be such an intricate one that it was again postponed for the next meeting for further discussion and settlement. It was decided that Messrs. Brooks and Crisp be Trustees of the Show Fund and that the money be deposited in the Nova Scotia Bank. Mr. Crisp moved that the Society vote £1 out of its fund to begin some preparation of the Show ground The sum of 8/- was approved of to be paid to the Secretary as expenses for correspondence, also 5/- to the Secretary of the Show Committee for similar expenses. It was moved and seconded that Mr. Bertram McFee's name be forwarded to the Secretary of the Parent Society for appointment as an Authorised Person for the Stony Hill Pen district. The Secretary also moved that Mr. Athelstan Law's name be also forwarded for the Constant Spring district but the motion was lost for the want of a seconder. The meeting then adjourned.—W. B. REID, Secretary.

May Pen—Clarendon.—The monthly meeting was held on Thursday the 11th September, 1913. Present:—Storkes de Roux, Esq. (President) also a large attendance of members. Mr. S. A. Schleifer, the Agricultural Instructor, was also present. The meeting was opened with prayer by Mr. T. B. Thompson. The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. The financial statement was read and passed. Moved and seconded that a vote of condolence be given to the Rev. N. A. Baquie, one of the Vice Presidents of the Society, in his sad bereavement. The Secretary read a letter from the Secretary of the Porus Branch Society soliciting the co-operation of this Branch in a Show to be held at Arcadia in December next. It was decided that this Branch was not prepared to take part as a Branch, but individual members are encouraged to do so. Mr. Schleifer spoke on the Clarendon Show to be held at Chapelton in January next. He emphasized the fact that several special prizes offered are of a practical and useful character. It was decided that this Branch should contribute to the Show Fund, each member to give not less than sixpence, which amount should be brought at the next meeting. Two further appointments of Authorized Persons were made. The subject of Guinea Corn was next discussed. The discussion was opened by Mr. A. S. McLean who said that his recent experience of Guinea Corn has convinced him that there is no other product that can equal it for dry districts. Mr. Peter McGill spoke next. He supported all the points brought out by the last speaker. Messrs. A. B. Francis and C. F. Dennis further spoke on the nutritive qualities of the Guinea Corn. Mr. Francis stated that in the olden days Guinea Corn was the staple crop of Vere and was cultivated by all the

settlers. The Secretary showed seven varieties of Guinea Corn which he had obtained from the Secretary of the Parent Society and moved that this Branch establish an experimental plot in order to find out the varieties that are most suitable. The President said while he was not against any scheme that would advance the industry, he did not think Guinea Corn wanted any experimenting on as it had been for a great many years the staple crop of Vere. He did not think that model plots have been successful in the past and they require more money than the ordinary settler could afford. Mr. Schleifer thought a model plot that turns out unsuccessfully did an incalculable amount of harm, he would however, heartily support the motion of the Secretary and undertake the management of the experimental plot. The motion was carried almost unanimously. Mr. T. B. Thompson kindly offered an acre of land free, for the purpose. It was moved and seconded that a loan of £5 be made from the Loan Bank for the purpose on the guarantee of ten members. This was agreed to. It was moved and seconded that rules be drawn up for the management of the Society. This was agreed to, and a Committee was appointed to prepare the rules. Three to form a quorum, with Mr. T. B. Tompson, Chairman. Mr. Schleifer intimated that Mr. A. Spooner of Moreland, who has had extensive experience of cultivation in dry areas was quite willing to address the Branch at any time on any subject suggested. It was decided to ask Mr. Spooner to give an address on "Dry Farming" with special reference to cotton on Thursday the 9th October in the market. Five new members were elected. The business of the Society being over, the meeting adjourned.

C. L. A. RENNALLS, Secretary.

Marlborough—St. Mary.—The regular monthly meeting of the Marlborough Branch was held on Thursday, 11th September, 1913, at 5.15 p.m. Present the following members:—A. J. Duncan, Esq., President, in the Chair, 4 members and one visitor. The meeting was called to order in the usual way. Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. Matters arising out of the minutes were dealt with. Mr. Z. French who was down to move for the forming of a Penny Bank in connection with the Branch put forth his motion, and was ably supported by the President, Messrs. Dixon and Murdock, and the Secretary. After a short discussion it was agreed that the matter be deferred until next meeting to enable the Secretary to gather certain information relative to the formation of the Bank. Mr. Alex. Ferguson of Flint River was elected a member of the Society. Mr. George Grant, one of the Authorized Persons of the Branch, reported that although he was vigilant in his district, yet he had not been successful in making an arrest during the past month. The Treasurer presented his report showing a balance of 4s. 7d. in hand. There was a lengthy discussion on the matters brought to the notice of the Branch in the circular sent by the Jamaica Agricultural Society in buying of cocoa pods, and the destruction to valuable trees by persons who use the bark for making ropes and dyeing houses. After various members expressed their views, it was agreed to forward the following resolution to the Secretary of the Parent Society. "Resolved that in the opinion of this Branch a revision of the Protection Law is needed to prohibit the buying of cocoa in pods at places other than Cocoa Factories, as the buying of such at the local shops, encourages the stealing of cocoa pods by children. In regard to the placing of Mahoe Bark, and Mahogany in Schedule (a) of the Prædial Larceny Law 4 of 1909, to it further resolved that they be included in the said Schedule so as to prevent the destruction of these valuable trees." The Secretary was down to give a paper on Drainage but it was deferred till next meeting, as the time at the disposal of the meeting was limited. After various other matters were gone through, the meeting adjourned.—A. SAML. FINLAYSON, Secretary.

Mt. Regale—St. Mary.—The regular meeting was held on the 12th September. Mr. A. C. Robinson, V.C., presided, twelve other members present and the Secretaries. Minutes of previous meeting read and confirmed after slight amendment. Arising out of the minutes Secretary reported having applied for the different seeds and that they had come. Authorized Persons said that they are receiving instructions from the police. Read letter from Parochial Board acknowledging communications from the Branch. Read circular letter from Parent

Society asking opinion of the Branch *re* sale of cocoa in pods and including mahoo and mahogany to Schedule under Law 4 of 1909. In the matter of the sale of cocoa in pods, it was unanimously agreed that the most practical solution of the question is the prohibition of sale by children. All agreed that mahoe and mahogany should be added to Schedule of the Prædial Larceny Law 4 of 1909 as lumber trees are scarce.—B. THOS. ATKINSON, Secretary.

Smithville—Clarendon.—The regular monthly meeting was held on the 12th Sept., 1913, when there were present: Messrs. W. A. Bryan, President in the Chair, W. S. Reid and A. B. Gayle, Vice-Presidents, Thos. Davies, Treasurer, the Secretary and thirteen members, besides three visitors. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed after which Mr. Dinnald was proposed and his name was enrolled as a member. Prize Lists in connection with the Chapelton Show were issued. The President urged the members to do their level best to help to make the Show a grand success. A local Show Committee was formed. The President read the Prize List and endeavoured to show how many of the Prizes can be carried away by the members of the Smithville Branch. He expressed the desire to see Smithville Branch taking away the greatest number of Prizes. Reference was here made to the generosity of M. Lopez Esq., who supplied many members of the Branch with kola plants. Letters from the Secretary of the Parent Society were read. The Branch considers that the Produce Protection Law needs revision—that the buying of Cocoa in Pods is really a temptation not only in the way of children but grown up lads when we consider that many of the buyers are men without scruples and who *will* buy the Cocoa Pods from children. There were divers opinions on the matter of Mahoe and Mahogany Bark. The decision reached however was that they should be placed on the List since ready-made dye can be got from the shops. A very warm discussion on the punishment that should be meted out to the Prædial Thieves took place. Some think that habitual criminals should get longer terms of imprisonment, while others think that Lock-ups should be established through the Parishes and the Road Headmen and Constables direct and protect them while the thieves are made to keep the roads in good order. Mr. Jas. Stone seconded by Mr. A. B. Gayle moved a resolution to the effect: "The Government be respectfully approached praying that the construction of the road from Summerfield, started some months ago and shut down, to meet the Thompson Town Smithville Road at Cove, be carried through and be a means of feeding the Branch Railway." The Cocoa Nursery at Danks received its due amount of praise. Several members are anxious to receive the Cocoa Plants and asked that application be made. The Doxology was sung and the meeting terminated.—J. A. EDWARDS, Secretary.

Preston—St. Mary.—The monthly meeting was held in the Preston Schoolroom on the 12th Sept., 1913. It was opened with the reading of Scripture and prayer. The President presided. Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. Secretary read correspondence. The members were informed that the Boar Pig for the Society has been sent down from the Hope Farm and the President has kindly undertaken the care of the animal. Mr. Parodie asked to show from the minutes where the pig had been ordered by the Society as he had no recollection of it. The minute was read showing the "motion" for the purchase of a boar for the Society and that the Secretary was instructed to communicate with the Director of Agriculture to send a good boar pig for the Preston Branch. Prior to the motion, it had been moved and seconded that a ram be bought by the Society. Mr. Wm. Morgan expressed his willingness to keep the ram when it comes. Mr. Berman McEachron's motion *re* the admission of patients to the New Port Maria Hospital came up for discussion but he was absent, however the President gave a satisfactory explanation on the subject. Mr. Ezekiel Brown's motion on Gambling came next for discussion. After listening to Mr. Brown on the prevalence of gambling in the neighbourhood the President remarked that it is the duty of the constables to exercise the authority of the law on any person found gambling. Mr. W. Morgan questioned as to the introduction of Sisal hemp in the island for cultivation. The President thought that yams can be culti-

vated to better advantage. The Secretary was instructed to learn from Secretary of the Parent Society if he could supply information respecting cultivation of Sisal Hemp i.e. the planting, threshing, and the yield per acre what would likely be the market price, and if it can be cultivated here to ad tage. The President informed the meeting that he will be leaving for Am for a couple of weeks and will not be present at our October meeting. Lawton in a few words wished the President a safe voyage and an enjoyable abroad in which the members present joined. The President fitly replied th ing the officers and members for their kind expressions. The duties of Au rized Persons will be fully explained when the President next presides. Tl were 35 members present and four paid in their subscriptions. The doxology benediction brought the meeting to a close. Next meeting 10th October.

J. M. WILLIAMS, Secret

Darliston—Westmoreland—The monthly meeting was held in the Enf schoolroom on Friday 12th September, 1913, at 9 a.m. There were present W. Mennell, Esq., President, R. C. Somerville, Esq., Agricultural Instruct and 21 other members. The minutes of the last meeting were read and c firmed. As arising out of the minutes Mr. Crooks said he will place the pig a crawl with a shed. Mr. Somerville said he had seen the Boar yesterday a he thought it was looking well. Mr. Somerville stated that the extra amou charged on the pig was caused through transportation expenses. The Secreta was instructed to forward the balance of 6s. on pig account. The Authoriz Persons present stated that they had not heard anything from the Inspector Police about instructions. The President said he was sure the Inspector wou fulfil his promise as soon as he had time. The Secretary read letter from t Parent Society *re* Produce Protection Law Revision. The meeting was satisfi with Class 1 and has no experience with Class 2. and Class 3. With regard Mahoe and Mahogany Bark being placed on Schedule (a) of the Praedial Larcer Law the Branch adheres to the Resolution passed at the May Meeting that it absolutely necessary for the growth of those valuable timber that they shou be protected. Notice should be given that any names on the list of subscriber who had not paid their subscriptions by the end of this month will not receiv any more JOURNALS and will be struck off the list. A letter was read from th St. Paul's Branch, *re* Praedial Larceny Law. It was unanimously agreed tha Praedial Larceny was on the increase. Mr. W. Smalling said that Compulsory Education is the only remedy to check this evil. The general opinion of the meeting with regard to Praedial Larceny is that the thief should be punished by working in public in the parish in which he was connected and the cost of the article stolen—the fine imposed and the keep of the individual be defrayed. With regard to the habitual criminal, it was considered that he ought to be imprisoned by penal servitude, and that is during such servitude he had worked well a gratuity should he given to him to enable him to begin life honestly. After a lengthy discussion on the above subject a very fine and instructive lecture was delivered by Mr. R. C. Somerville, Agricultural Instructor on "Manure" dealing with the following points: Kinds, Applications and Uses. After the giving of the usual vote of thanks to the Instructor the following persons were enrolled as new members of the Branch, namely: Mr. Charles McKenzie and Miss R. E. Richardson. Meeting adjourned to Friday, 10th October at 9 a.m. in the Enfield schoolroom.—J. H. HEDLEY, Secretary.

Main Ridge,—Clarendon.—The monthly meeting was held in the Comfort Mission Church, September 12th, 1913. Meeting opened with prayer by Mr. G. D. Dawkins. Present, President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Instructor and Secretary, and eighteen members. There were three visitors, who were afterwards enrolled as members. The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. Matters arising out of minutes. Report of Committee appointed at last meeting to look into and report on certain matters in connection with the Society was received. Mr. Dawkins read a paper on "How Plants Feed," which was listened to with attention. After some discussion on it, he was accorded a warm vote of thanks, Debate: "The Cow or the Horse which is more useful,"

Mr. R. Barnett led in an intelligent way for the cow. Mr. W. Piper replied in an able manner for the horse. There were warm and strong supporters on both sides. when put to the vote the horse won. The Instructor's lecture was on the usefulness of the proposed Show to come off on the 1st January, 1914. A Committee was formed to work in creating the interest in the Show. consisting of the Officers of the Society, with Mr. R. S. Murray and Miss Simmond. Miss Simmond's Paper on Sanitation was laid over for next meeting. Mr. D. B. Grant's field will be visited next month. Time for next meeting Oct. 10th. Place, Comfort. Three new members were elected. A very enjoyable meeting was brought to a close by singing the National Anthem.—H. A. ANGLIN, Secretary.

Avocat—Portland—The regular monthly meeting of this Branch was held on Saturday the 13th September, 1913. There was a fair turn out of members. Owing to the indisposition of the President, Mr. Joseph McLarty presided. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Matters arising out of the minutes were dealt with. Mr. McLarty thought that Bamboo should be added to Schedule A of the Prædial Larceny Law, hence the Secretary was asked to get the co-operation of other Branches to that effect. Agreed re Authorized Persons. The Secretary was requested to write to the Secretary of the Parent Society for the *Modus Operandi* of these officers. It was moved by Mr. Joseph Lafayette and seconded by Mr. Timothy Williams that the names of the following members be sent to the Government through the Parent Society for appointment as Authorized Persons. Messrs. David Moodie and F. Emanuel Nesbett for the districts of Mt. Pleasant and Balcarres respectively. Mr. Benjamin Lowe moved a resolution requesting the Secretary to write to the Surveyor General praying for a road to the Government lands sold to a number of small settlers off Galloway—(agreed) Messrs. Benjamin Lowe and W. H. Patterson paid their subscription. After the transaction of a few minor matters, the meeting adjourned *sine die*.—F. EMANUEL NESBITT, Secretary.

Claremont—St. Ann—The monthly meeting was held on Saturday the 13th instant. There were present Rev. A. W. Geddes, Chairman, Mr. Arnett, the Agricultural Instructor, twenty-three members and the Secretary. As arising out of the minutes the rules governing the duties of "Authorized Persons" were discussed—Mr. Arnett taking an active part. The opinion of the meeting was that, a more detailed explanation of the law to these officers was needed and that the Parent Society should issue leaflets setting forth concisely and in very plain language just what they are required to do in the execution of their duties. Very likely pitfalls may be pointed out also. At the same time the Secretary was instructed to write to the Inspector of Police for the Parish, asking him to come up at the November meeting and instruct the "Authorized Persons" in their duties. Those in connection with the Moneague and Pedro Branches will be invited to attend. The question of "Loafing" was considered. A few members were of the opinion that as "Authorized Persons" are well acquainted with the loafers in their districts, they should be empowered to arrest vagrants. As there is a feeling that the entrance fee of 1s. debars some from enrolling as members of the Society, this subject is to be discussed at the next meeting. Mr. Arnett pointed out that as far as he knew other branches do not charge an entrance fee, but the 1s. yearly subscription is demanded even if a member joins late in the year. Mr. Arnett lectured interestingly on some of the forms of co-operation in Ireland. He pointed out that co-operation would be very helpful in storing corn when the crop is large and the price low, as at present, and to sell out later when the price rises. He recommended the use of carbon—bisulphide to preserve corn from the attack of weevils. Mr. Tivy mentioned that he is trying sulphur and will report the result to the Society. As the store house of the peasants is generally their Kitchen-room carbon-bisulphide on account of its inflammability was considered not suitable for general use. The Secretary was instructed to write and ask the Parent Society to give reasons why American Corn can be kept in good condition for a long period whereas Jamaica corn cannot. Mr. W. B. Smith was elected a member. The meeting then adjourned.—F. P. ALEXANDER, Secretary.

Lucky Hill—St. Mary—The regular monthly meeting was held in the Goshen Schoolroom on Wednesday 17th inst. There were present Mr. H. Jefferson, President in the chair, sixteen members and the Secretary. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Mr. Alexander Livingston was proposed and received as a new member. Secretary reported having written to the Secretary of the J. A. S. *re* The use of the Catapult, Revision of the Produce Protection Law, and adding Mahoe Bark and Mohogany to Schedule (A) of the Prædial Larceny Law 4 of 1909; also to the Colonial Secretary on the increase of the Disease of Yaw. The Banana Planters' Association Committee presented draft copy of a circular to be sent to all the larger planters in the surrounding districts. It was decided to change the name "Banana Combine" to "Banana Planters' Association." The next meeting in the interest of the Association is fixed for the 8th October at 4 o'clock in the Goshen Schoolroom. The Railway Committee reported progress, and the attention of the meeting was called to the fact that the Port Maria section of the community is interesting itself in the agitation for Railway extension with a view to include the chief towns of the parish, and that Gayle be included in any developments that may take place.

The Nancy Gully, Frankfort and Jeffrey Town roads came in for much discussion. It was observed that the special grant from the Parochial Board goes, this year, to the former road. Three persons were appointed subject to the approval of the Inspector General of Police, to serve as Authorized Persons under the Prædial Larceny Law. Mr. C. L. Roper who has the care of the Boar, reported that the animal was not making satisfactory progress. A committee was appointed to make a thorough inspection of the animal and report at next meeting.

The Ram was favourably reported on, by Mr. Spence who has the care of him. At the next meeting a lecture will be given by Mr. L. L. Roper on the "Care of Animals and how to treat them." Much complaint was received from members not receiving their JOURNALS. It was decided that the General Secretary be asked to forward all JOURNALS for the Branch, to its Secretary for distribution to the members. Busines being completed the meeting came to a close.—W. B. CUMMINGS, Secretary.

Scott's Hall—St. Mary.—The Regular Monthly Meeting was held in the Schoolroom on Thursday, 18th September, 1913, at 6 a.m. The Rev. J. Gordon Hay occupied the chair. The attendance was not as large as was expected. After the usual preliminaries, followed the reading and confirmation of the minutes. Arising out of the minutes Mr. J. Kelly asked what has been done *re* the grindstone and other tools which the Chairman should have ordered for the Society. In reply the Chairman explained why he has not done so. He would like to get a good stone and therefore he would wait until he can secure the services of an instructor, or any one who was acquainted with grindstones and would know a good one. The question of buying cocoa in pods came up for discussion, but owing to the small attendance, was deferred for next meeting when a good attendance is expected. The Big Spring Road was discussed. In reply to questions, the Secretary said he had recently taken up the matter and had written several letters relative to it. He was glad to say the Road has been scheduled by order of the Board at its last meeting, and it is safe for him to say the grant will be made at the Board's next meeting. This was welcome news to the members, The question arose over the form of reminder that should be used in order that all members of the Society should be kept notified of each Regular Monthly Meeting, At the suggestion of Mr. Kelly it was agreed to get "Permanent Reminding Cards" printed calling attention to the Third Thursday of every month at 4 p.m. for the meeting. One could be given each member with instruction to have it placed in a prominent spot in the home where it can be seen at all times. Several suggestions were offered but Mr. Kelly's was finally accepted. The Chairman spoke at length on the great issues at stake and the need for Co-operation. The membership of the Society was over 150 and the Secretary who at present is overtaxed with work, cannot manage to prepare circulars month by month. The Secretary he said has worked hard in the interest

of the community, and his work has but just begun, therefore anything that can be done to relieve him should be done. He is of opinion that the cards if well used will solve the difficulty admirably. The Stony Hill Show was next discussed. All expressed full accordance and promised to take every possible interest in the matter. The Secretary was asked to write expressing the Society's willingness to co-operate in every possible way. There were one or two points which this Society would like to understand before taking further steps and these the Secretary promised to get by next meeting. The pruning shears were distributed among the members each to be returned at the end of a fortnight so that they can be got by other members. The National Anthem brought the meeting to a close.—G. O. HANSON, Secretary.

Maldon—St. James.—The usual Monthly Meeting was held on the 19th September, 1913. There were present: Rev, R. G. Chambers, Chairman, Mr. S. C. Reid, Secretary, Mr. J. W. Chisholm, Record-Secretary, 10 other members and 1 visitor. Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. Business arising out of the minutes. It was decided that a Local Show be held in connection with the Society. Arrangements will be made at next meeting. The following resolution was drawn up. Resolved that this Branch on behalf of this and the surrounding districts would respectfully approach the Governor soliciting his sympathy to sell lumber off the Crown Lands to the people around. A copy of this resolution was sent to His Excellency the Governor. The following will be dealt with at next meeting. First, that the names of members be sent to the Parent Society, and Journals be sent to them direct. Second, that the Regular Monthly Meeting be held earlier in the month. There was a debate. The sow and the boar which is more profitable. The minority voted for the sow. Subject for next meeting—How may our Society be best developed financially, Roll Call—Meeting came to a close by singing the National Anthem.

S. CORNELIUS REID, Secretary.

Rock River—Clarendon.—The regular monthly meeting was held on September 19th, 1913. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Fourteen members were present including the Officers and Instructors for the Parish. Unfinished business arising from the minutes were dealt with. Mr. Sydney Lopez was asked to purchase a syringe for the Society and to procure on his own responsibility, a stock of paranaph for spraying purposes. The Society's ram was exhibited and the claims for his maintenance settled. The Secretary reported the arrival of the Pass books for the Penny Bank, and urged the starting of business. The elected Secretary being ill, the Rev. Donaldson, Manager, was asked to act as Secretary *pro tem*. The Picnic Committee did not meet and so the matter was deferred. Mr. Lopez brought before the meeting the fact that the Telephone Line between Chapelton and Rock River has been surveyed not to the centre of the town, as was requested of the Postmaster General, but to the present Post Office, fifteen chains away in an out-of-the-way corner. Instead of the suggested petition to the Governor, a strongly worded resolution was adopted which is to be sent to the P. M. G. urging on him the waste of the taxpayer's money and the just claims of the public. The Instructor next treated the meeting to an interesting lecture *re* matters connected with the coming Show at Danks in January next. He simply exhausted the subject, nothing important was left untouched. As a result of the impression it made Mr. Lopez offered a prize of five shillings for the best cured coffee and a similar sum for the best cured cocoa from any small settler exhibited on the Show Ground. Most of the members signified their intention to compete and a very profitable meeting came to an end by the singing of the National Anthem.—J. N. MORRIS, Secretary.

NOTE.—The weather is simply lovely and the future as far as Agriculture is concerned, entirely encouraging. Native corn is plentiful and can be bought in our local market at 2/6 per bushel.

Lamb's River—Westmoreland—At a regular meeting held at Mt. Hermon on Friday, 19th Sept. there were present: Instructors Briscoe and Somerville, 22 members, and some visitors. Mr. Somerville formally introduced Mr. Briscoe to

the meeting. He spoke very favourably of Mr. Briscoe as his successor, and described him as the friend of the poor man. Mr. Briscoe replied thanking the Society for the kind and hearty welcome extended to him. The chief note of his remarks was co-operation on the part of the members of the Society, if they hope sor any degree of improvement in any work undertaken. Mr. Briscoe was in the district for 3 days before the meeting, and visited holdings and gave practical demonstrations in the pruning of bananas, coffee, and cocoa. The meeting was presided over by Mr. C. W. Whittingham (V.P.). Letter from the President was read explaining the cause of his unavoidable absence. Minutes of the prexious meeting were read and confirmed, and points arising out of same discussed. Inquiry was made *re* the lecture to "Authorized Persons" by the Inspector of Police for the parish, on the 12th August. Mr. E. A. James advised the meeting that he has been greatly benefited by the lecture given In reference to the circular letter from the Parent Society inviting discussion on the proposal of Mahoe bark and Mahogany bark being added to Schedule A of Law 4 of 1909, the meeting decided that as the original resolution was sent from this Branch, it still adheres to it, that these should be added to the Schedule. The Secretary informed the meeting that he had distributed the 2 bushels of cow peas given to over 60 persons, and among the plots that he saw they were doing well. Letter *re* Arrowroot was read, and the meeting was advised that the Parent Society will buy all that can be raised this year in the district at 3d. per lb. Letter from the Secretary of the St. Paul's Branch on Praedial Larceny was read. It contained the following resolution: [a] "That Praedial Larceny is on the increase, and that the present measures for repressing it are insufficient in as much as they have not proved a deterrent to the evil." [b] The St. Pauls Branch is of opinion that any one convicted of Praedial Larceny should be made to do remunerative work in the district where the offence was committed such as road making and maintaince, or any other public work that might be then necessary in the district, and such a person should be made to work till the cost of maintenance has been paid, as well the value of the goods to the owner of them. A lengthy discussion followed this letter, and the decision of the meeting was: This meeting is in sympathy with the spirit of the resolution, and hope that some measures will be adopted to put down the evil. It was decided that the standing order, be suspended, and £1 from the funds of the Society be spent in the purchase of vegetable seeds for free distribution among its members in good standing: such seeds being:—Cabbage, Lettuces, Turnip, Cucumber, and Tomato. The Secretary gave notice that he will move at the next meeting a resolution for the alteration and amendment of certain rules of the Society. Next meeting to be held on Friday, 14th Nov. at noon.—U. L. BROWN, Secretary.

Cedar Valley—St. Catherine.—The regular monthly meeting was held on the 22nd September, 1913. There was a fair turn out of the members with Mr. L. Mossman (Instructor). After the reading and confirmation of the minutes the Instructor showed the necessity of postponing the Prize Holding Competition. Nothing of importance for discussion arose from the minutes. The Instructor therefore went on to address the meeting on the subject of "Trenching." This proved very interesting as seen from the attention given He began by pointing out that trenching to-day is not like trenching in past time when the only aim was to drain the land. Trenching is serving four different purposes, viz., Draining, Aerating, Furnishing New Soil, Conserving Moisture. These purposes were dealt with and much information was gained. The Instructor visited the cultivations of Messrs Thompson and Tucker where a large number of persons attended and two successful demonstrations accomplished. With reference to the Cocoa-Pod License now discussed by the Branch Societies it was resolved That the Law dealing with Cocoa-pods be amended—(a) The License be fixed at £20. (b) That the pods be sold in quantities of not less than one hundred. This meeting also resolved—That mahoe and mahogany bark should be put on the schedule of articles for which "Authorized Persons" may arrest suspected persons. A vote of thanks for the Instructor was moved and seconded.

J. A. CLARKE, Secretary.

Duanvale—Trelawny.—The regular monthly meeting of the Duanvale Agricultural Society was held on Monday night the 22nd Sept., 1913. There were present the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Instructor, Secretary, 19 other members and some visitors. Among some of the chief matters dealt with were reports from the President on the drafting of a letter to the Governor *re* the sanitary condition of the district, correspondence with some of the chief hotels in the island *re* the sale of vegetables, &c.; suggestions from the President on the improvement of the intellectual status of the district, by the reading of the TIMES and the JOURNAL of Agriculture. The Instructor in agreeing with the suggestions further suggested that parts of the JOURNAL might be read at some of the meetings of the Society. The Instructor gave an interesting lecture on the Prize Holdings Competition. A hearty invitation was presented by him to the members to attend a small show to be held at Deeside on the 10th November, 1913, by the Deeside Society. Notice was given by Mr. J. R. Reid to move at next meeting that a Corn Mill be bought for the use of the members of the Society. The Secretary stated his intentions of sending up a revised list of the members to the Parent Society by next day and members who did not qualify by paying in their dues would be refused the JOURNAL and other privileges of the Society.—L. U. WELSH, Secretary.

Chesterfield—St. Mary.—A meeting was held on the 23rd Sept. with the Rev. J. Gordon Hay in the chair. Twelve members and the Secretary were present. As arising out of the minutes, the grindstone question was discussed, and the members all promised to lay down a sixpence each, at the next meeting towards the cost of buying the stone. The rules of the Society were brought, up and after some discussion and amendment, they were passed. On the motion of Mr. Hagues it was decided to have them read out once at each meeting for the remainder of the year. A Managing Committee was appointed. On the motion of Mr. Roberts, Mr. F. S. Grant was unanimously elected as second Vice-President. The matter of starting a penny bank in connection with the Society was brought up, but left over to be discussed at the next meeting. The attendance was noted, and the meeting terminated for the evening by the singing of the National Anthem.

A. VIVIAN HAGUES, Secretary.

Savanna-La-Mar—Westmoreland.—A meeting was held on the 26th Sept., 1913. The members present were Dr. H. Robins, Vice-President in the chair, Dr. Seaton, Messrs. A. B. Allwood, G. R. Palmer, A. A. Tomlinson and R. C. Somerville Esq., Agricultural Instructor. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Rev. Dell being absent the Notice standing in his name *re* purchasing of Angora or Toggenburg ram was deferred. The Instructor promised to give a lecture on Coconuts with special reference to the diseases affecting same on Thursday 16th October at 6.30 p.m. in the Court House Savanna-La-Mar. The next meeting was fixed for Thursday 16th October at 3 p.m. in the Parochial Board's Office Savanna-la-Mar. Mr. Somerville gave Notice to move at the next meeting that a sum of £25 out of the profits of the Show be given for a local Prize Holdings Competition having special regard to the resuscitation of the Coconut industry—General cultivation of permanent and catch crops to be taken into account for the Parish of Westmoreland. Time and conditions to be fixed by the meeting. The meeting adjourned.

OSCAR M. SEATON, Secretary.

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